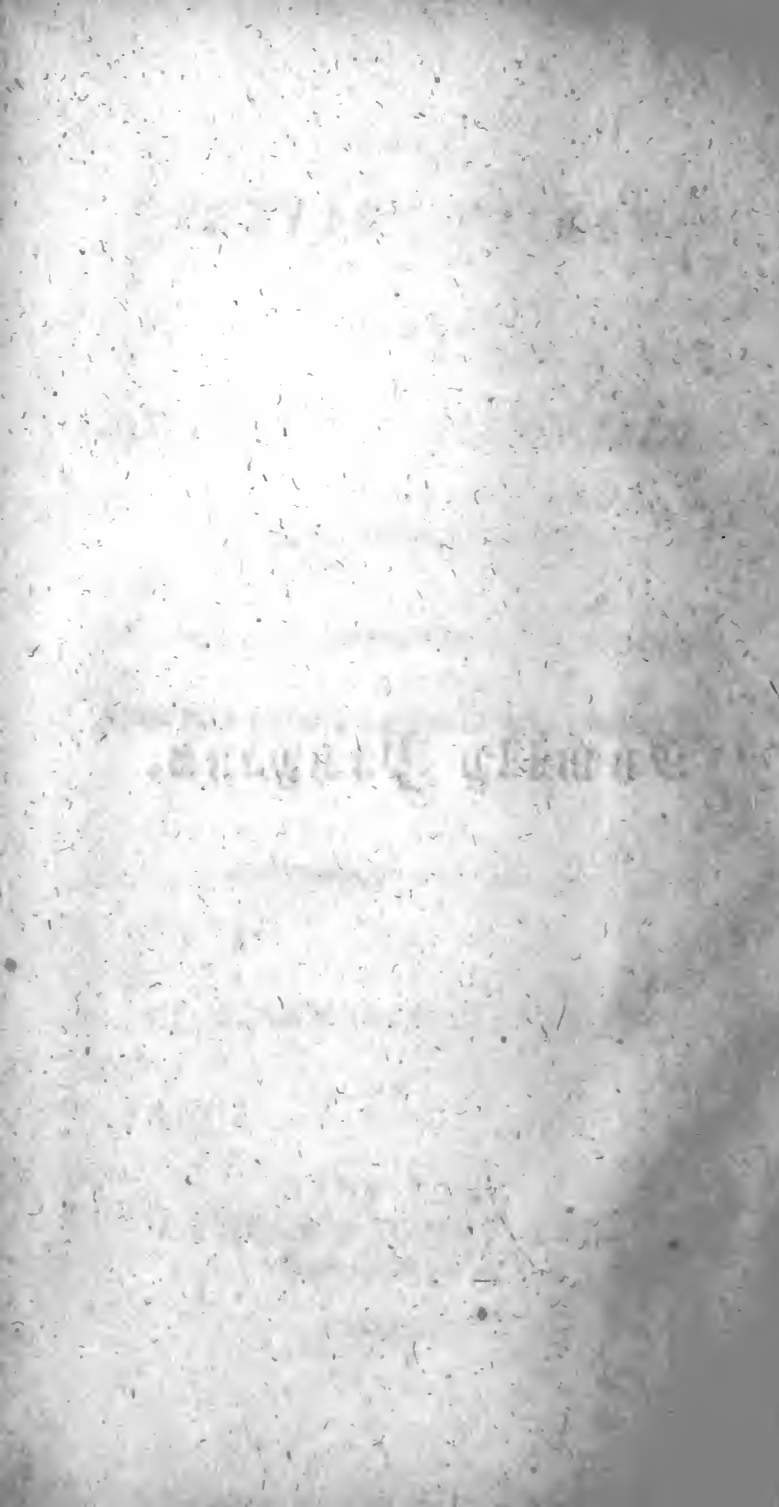




Family Prayers.



FAMILY PRAYERS,

FROM THE

SACRED SCRIPTURES, THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER,

AND APPROVED AUTHORS,

FOR EVERY

Morning and Evening during a Month.

Revised from a London Work,

BY

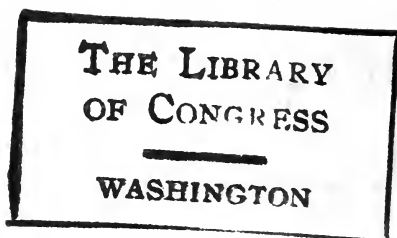
HENRY V. D. JOHNS, D. D.

BALTIMORE:
ARMSTRONG & BERRY,

No. 166 Market Street.

1850,

BV255
JG



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JOHN D. TOY, PRINTER.

120

P R E F A C E .

THIS collection of family prayers was originally published by the London Religious Tract Society, and is now revised and adapted to the uses of christian people in the United States. The publisher has added a Calender of Scripture Lessons, prepared by the Rev. Mr. Bickersteth, of Watton, England, which he trusts may afford some aid in the instruction of the family: and also a series of questions for self-examination, designed to serve the uses of a finger-board by the way, and to point the secluded anxious inquirer to the true grounds of christian hope. He makes this addition, under the firm conviction, that where family prayer and exposition are duly performed, cases of true conviction of sin, and conversion to God, will occur—and, that often, a silent counsellor may be found of unspeakable value

at such a crisis. Let then, the anxious soul take these questions, read and pray over them, and thus *feel his way*, to an early interview with his pastor. The importance of personal pastoral communication, when the heart is touched and moved to seek religion, cannot be too strongly inculcated. O that our people would never withhold from us even the first buddings of anxiety to know the Lord.

Generally speaking, the best time for family worship is the morning, before breakfast, and the evening, immediately after supper. In conducting the exercise, let the father, and in his absence, the mother, read a psalm or hymn, to be sung where it is practicable: then follow with a short selection, say, fifteen or twenty verses, from the Calender of Scripture Lessons, explaining the same in a brief and practical manner, and endeavouring to give their teachings a bearing upon the events of the day; and afterwards, conclude with prayer—always using the Lord's Prayer in the morning, at the end of the performance, and the "Grace" after it.

Mr. Bickersteth quotes Matthew Henry, as saying, "They who pray, do well: they who pray and read the scriptures, do better: they who pray and read and sing, do best." The only danger is, of making the exercise too long, and thus wearying the young, and repelling the active and busy, by the apprehension of too great interference with the operations of the day. Reasonable regard should therefore be had to brevity.

Every parent should try to attain the "holy skill" of judicious exposition of scripture at family worship. How happy the opportunity thus afforded of conveying reproof, instruction, encouragement and counsel to the young—speaking to them what we wish to say, backed by the authority of God's Word. The family altar might thus be so served as to be not only a "venerable custom," but a daily spring of blessings, indispensably necessary for the comfort and welfare of the whole household.

The publisher believes that the pious observance of family prayer, and the good old custom of "grace at the table," may be safely

taken as a true standard by which to try the rise or fall of real religion in any community. In a country like ours, the daily prayer in churches is generally attended, even in our towns and cities, by but a very small part of the population; but in the family, all can be present. Hence, it is held, that the only really available daily service, for the masses of the people of this wide-spread land, must be in the family. The hope is therefore cherished that the addition which is now made to the many excellent manuals of prayer, already published, may afford increased facility for a most salutary exercise.

In apostolic times, salutations were sent to churches in particular houses. The publisher believes such are still to be found, and that there are many of them, in places endeared to him, by the recollections of sweet and holy hours of christian intercourse. He therefore sends this volume as his sincere and affectionate christian salutation to an extensive circle of beloved friends, in Trinity Church, Washington, D. C.; All Saint's Parish, Frederick-

Town; St. Andrew's and Christ Churches, Baltimore, Maryland; and St. Paul's, Cincinnati, Ohio.

May it please the Lord to bless each scriptural effort, however feeble, thus to assist the devotions of his people!

HENRY V. D. JOHNS,

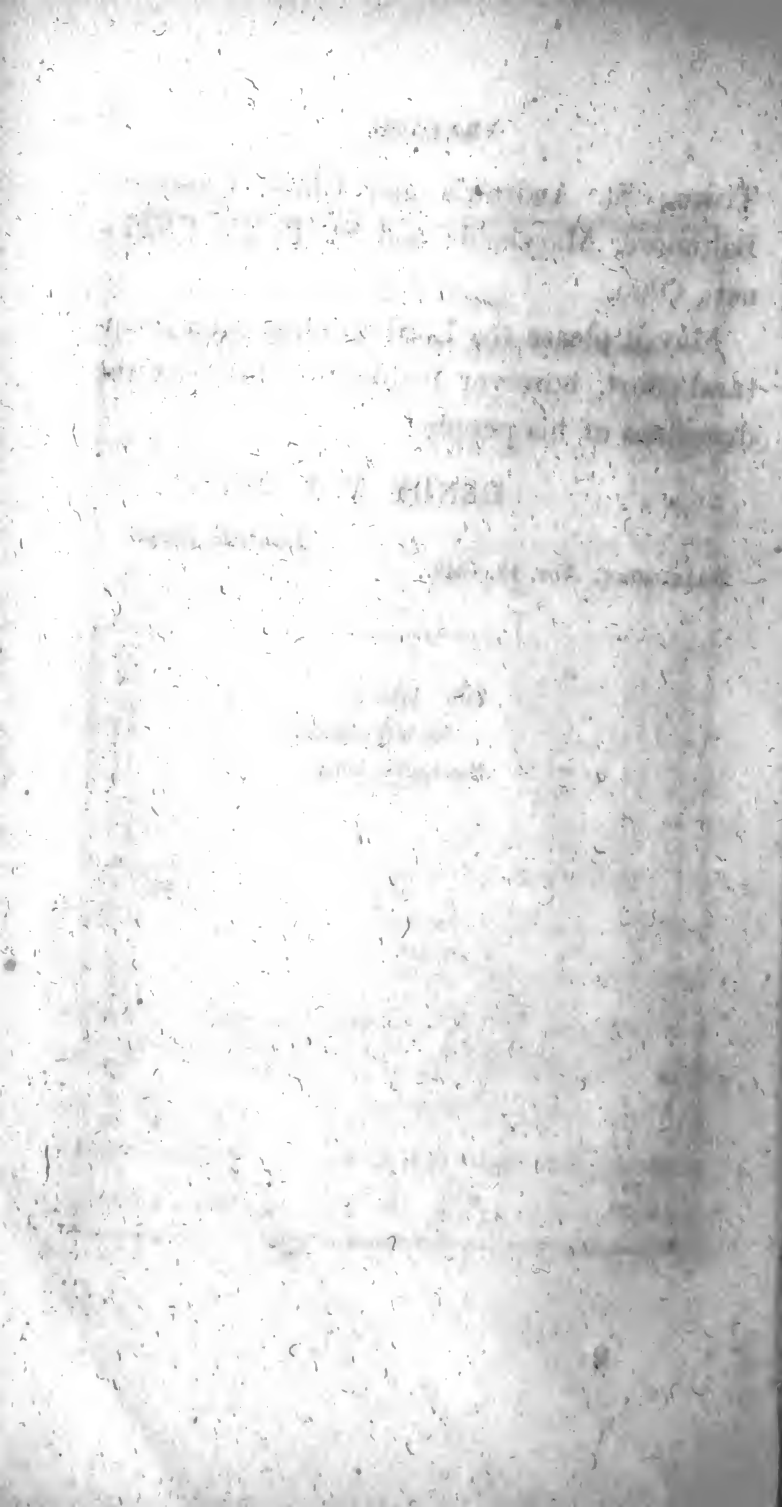
Lanvale Street,

BALTIMORE, Nov. 19, 1849.

Ora—labora

Sic levis labor.

Sic brevis hora.



JANUARY.

Blessed art thou, O Lord, teach me thy statutes.

		1st Lessons.		2nd Lessons.	
1	a	Circum.	Gen. 17 De. 10	Roman 2	Collos. 2
2	b	..	Genesis 1 2	Matth. 1	Roman 1
3	c	..	.. 3 4	.. 2	.. 2
4	d	..	.. 5 6	.. 3	.. 3
5	e	..	.. 7 8	.. 4	.. 4
6	f	Epiph.	Isaiah 60 49	Luke 3.	John 2.
7	g	..	Genesis 9 12	(1-23) 5	(1-12) 5
8	a	..	.. 13 14	.. 6	.. 6
9	b	..	.. 15 16	.. 7	.. 7
10	c	..	.. 17 18	.. 8	.. 8
11	d	..	.. 19 20	.. 9	.. 9
12	e	..	.. 21 22	.. 10	.. 10
13	f	..	.. 23 24	.. 11	.. 11
14	g	..	.. 25 26	.. 12	.. 12
15	a	..	.. 27 28	.. 13	.. 13
16	b	..	.. 29 30	.. 14	.. 14
17	c	..	.. 31 32	.. 15	.. 15
18	d	..	.. 33 34	.. 16	.. 16
19	e	..	.. 35 37	.. 17	1 Cor. 1
20	f	..	.. 38 39	.. 18	.. 2
21	g	..	.. 40 41	.. 19	.. 3
22	a	..	.. 42 43	.. 20	.. 4
23	b	..	.. 44 45	.. 21	.. 5
24	c	..	.. 46 47	.. 22	.. 6
25	d	St. Paul's	Isaiah 50 51	Acts 22.	Acts 26.
26	e	Conver.	Gen. 48 49 50	(1-23) 23	.. 7
27	f	..	Exodus 1	.. 24	.. 8
28	g	..	.. 2 3	.. 25	.. 9
29	a	..	.. 4 5	.. 26	.. 10
30	b	..	.. 6 7	.. 27	.. 11
31	c	..	.. 8 9	.. 28	.. 12

FEBRUARY.

Give me understanding according to thy word.

			1st Lessons.	2nd Lessons.		
1	d	..	Exodus 10 11	Mark 1	1 Cor.	13
2	e	Purif.	Lev. 12 Nu. 8	.. 2	..	14
3	f	..	Exodus 12 13	.. 3	..	15
4	g	..	.. 14 15	.. 4	..	16
5	a	..	.. 16 17	.. 5	2 Cor.	1
6	b	..	.. 18 19	.. 6	..	2
7	c	..	.. 20 21	.. 7	..	3
8	d	..	.. 22 23	.. 8	..	4
9	e	..	.. 24 32	.. 9	..	5
10	f	..	.. 33 34	.. 10	..	6
11	g	..	.. 35 38	.. 11	..	7
12	a	..	.. 39 40	.. 12	..	8
13	b	..	Numb. 11 12	.. 13	..	9
14	c	..	.. 13 14	.. 14	..	10
15	d	..	.. 15 17	.. 15	..	11
16	e	..	.. 18 21	.. 16	..	12
17	f	..	.. 22 23	L. 1. 1-39	..	13
18	g	..	.. 24 25	1 39-80	Gala.	1
19	a	..	.. 26 30	.. 2	..	2
20	b	..	.. 31 32	.. 3	..	3
21	c	..	.. 33 36	.. 4	..	4
22	d	..	Deut. 1 2	.. 5	..	5
23	e	..	.. 3 4	.. 6	..	6
24	f	St. Mat-	1 Sam. 10 Is. 52	.. 7	Ephes.	1
25	g	thias.	.. 5 6	.. 8	..	2
26	a	..	.. 7 8	.. 9	..	3
27	b	..	.. 9 10	.. 10	..	4
28	c	..	.. 11 12	.. 11	..	5
29		..	.. 13 14	Matth. 7	Rom.	12

MARCH.

Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes.

			1st Lessons.		2nd Lessons.		
1	d	..	Deut.	15 16	Luke	12	Ephes. 6
2	e	..	..	17 18	..	13	Phillip. 1
3	f	..	..	19 20	..	14	.. 2
4	g	..	..	21-24	..	15	.. 3
5	a	..	..	25 26	..	16	.. 4
6	b	..	..	27 28	..	17	Collos. 1
7	c	..	..	29 30	..	18	.. 2
8	d	..	..	31 32	..	19	.. 3
9	e	..	..	33 34	..	20	.. 4
10	f	..	Josh.	1 2	..	21	1 Thes. 1
11	g	..	..	3 4	..	22	.. 2
12	a	..	..	5 6	..	23	.. 3
13	b	..	..	7 8	..	24	.. 4
14	c	..	..	9 10	John	1	.. 5
15	d	..	..	11-23	..	2	2 Thes. 1
16	e	..	Judges	1	..	3	.. 2
17	f	..	..	2 3	..	4	.. 3
18	g	..	..	4 5	..	5	1 Tim. 1
19	a	..	..	6 7	..	6	.. 2 3
20	b	..	..	8 9	..	7	.. 4
21	c	..	..	10 11	..	8	.. 5
22	d	..	..	12 13	..	9	.. 6
23	e	..	..	14 15	..	10	2 Tim. 1
24	f	..	..	16 17	..	11	.. 2
25	g	Annun.	Isa.7. 1	Ch. 22	..	12	.. 3
26	a	..	..	18 19	..	13	.. 4
27	b	..	..	20 21	..	14	Titus 1
28	c	..	Ruth	1 2	..	15	.. 2 3
29	d	..	..	3 4	..	16	Philem.
30	e	..	1 Sam.	1 2	..	17	Heb. 1
31	f	..	..	3 4	..	18	.. 2

APRIL.

Teach me good judgment and knowledge.

			1st Lessons.			2nd Lessons.			
1	g	..	1 Sam.	5	6	John	19	Heb.	3
2	a	..	..	7	8	..	20	..	4
3	b	..	..	9	10	..	21	..	5
4	c	..	..	11	12	Acts	1	..	6
5	d	..	..	13	14	..	2	..	7
6	e	..	..	15	16	..	3	..	8
7	f	..	..	17	18	..	4	..	9
8	g	..	..	19	20	..	5	..	10
9	a	..	..	21	22	..	6	..	11
10	b	..	..	23	24	..	7	..	12
11	c	..	..	25	26	..	8	..	13
12	d	..	..	27	28	..	9	James	1
13	e	..	..	29	30	..	10	..	2
14	f	..	2 Sam.	1		..	11	..	3
15	g	..	..	2	3	..	12	..	4
16	a	..	..	4	5	..	13	..	5
17	b	..	..	6	7	..	14	1 Peter	1
18	c	..	..	8	9	..	15	..	2
19	d	..	..	10	11	..	16	..	3
20	e	..	..	12	13	..	17	..	4
21	f	..	..	14	15	..	18	..	5
22	g	..	..	16	17	..	19	2 Peter	1
23	a	..	..	18	19	..	20	..	2
24	b	..	..	20	21	..	21	..	3
25	c	St. Mark	Nah.1.	Mal. 1		..	22	1 John	1
26	d	..	..	22	23	..	23	..	2
27	e	..	1 Kings	1		..	24	..	3
28	f	..	..	2	3	..	25	..	4
29	g	..	..	4	5	..	26	..	5
30	a	..	..	6	7	..	27	2 John	3

M A Y .

Thou art good and doest good ; teach me thy statutes.

		1st Lessons.		2nd Lessons.	
1	b	S. Phil & Jos.	3 4	John 1 43	Jude
2	c	S. James	1 Kings 8 9	Acts 28	Rev. 1
3	d	..	.. 10 11	Matt. 1	.. 2
4	e	..	.. 12 13	.. 2	.. 3
5	f	..	.. 14 15	.. 3	.. 4 5
6	g	..	.. 16 17	.. 4	.. 6 7
7	a	..	.. 18 19	.. 5	.. 8 9
8	b	..	.. 20 21 22	.. 6	10 11
9	c	..	2 Kings 1	.. 7	12 13
10	d	..	.. 2 3	.. 8	.. 14
11	e	..	.. 4 5	.. 9	15 16
12	f	..	.. 6 7	.. 10	.. 17
13	g	..	.. 8 9	.. 11	.. 18
14	a	..	.. 10 11	.. 12	.. 19
15	b	..	.. 12 13	.. 13	.. 20
16	c	..	.. 14 15	.. 14	.. 21
17	d	..	.. 16 17	.. 15	.. 22
18	e	..	.. 18 19	.. 16	1 Cor. 1
19	f	..	.. 20 21	.. 17	.. 2
20	g	..	.. 22 23	.. 18	.. 3
21	a	..	.. 24 25	.. 19	.. 4
22	b	..	Ezra 1-3	.. 20	.. 5
23	c	..	.. 4 5	.. 21	.. 6
24	d	..	.. 6-8	.. 22	.. 7
25	e	..	Nehemiah 1	.. 23	.. 8
26	f	..	.. 2-4	.. 24	.. 9
27	g	..	.. 5-7	.. 25	.. 10
28	a	..	.. 8 9	.. 26	.. 11
29	b	..	.. 10-13	.. 27	.. 12
30	c	..	Esther 1 2	.. 28	.. 13
31	d	..	.. 3 4	Mark 1	.. 14

JUNE.

Give me understanding to know thy testimonies.

			1st Lessons.			2nd Lessons.		
1	e	..	Esther	5	6	Mark	2	1 Cor. 15
2	f	..	..	7	8	..	3	.. 16
3	g	..	Job		1	..	4	2 Cor. 1
4	a	..	..	2	3	..	5	.. 2
5	b	..	..	4	5	..	6	.. 3
6	c	..	..	6	7	..	7	.. 4
7	d	..	..	8	9	..	8	.. 5
8	e	..	..	10	11	..	9	.. 6
9	f	..	..	12	13	..	10	.. 7
10	g	..	..	14	15	..	11	.. 8
11	a	St. Bar-	Is. 61.	Je. 33		Acts	14	Acts 15
12	b	nabas.	Job	16	17	Mark	12	1-26 9
13	c	..	..	18	19 20	..	13	.. 10
14	d	..	..	21	22	..	14	.. 11
15	e	..	..	23; 24	25	..	15	.. 12
16	f	..	..	26; 27	28	..	16	.. 13
17	g	..	..	29	30	Luke	1	Gal. 1
18	a	..	..	31	32	..	2	.. 2
19	b	..	..	33	34	..	3	.. 3
20	c	Access.	..	35	36	..	4	.. 4
21	d	..	..	37	38	..	5	.. 5
22	e	..	..	39	40	..	6	.. 6
23	f	..	..	41	42	..	7	Ephes. 1
24	g	St. John	Malachi	3	4	Matt.	3	Matt. 14
25	a	Baptist.	Prov.	1	2	Luke	8	Ephes. 2
26	b	..	..	3	4	..	9	.. 3
27	c	..	..	5	6	..	10	.. 4
28	d	..	..	7	8	..	11	.. 5
29	e	St. Peter	Is. 28.	Ez. 34		Acts	3	Acts 4
30	f	..	Prov.	9	10	Luke	12	Ephes. 6

J U L Y .

O that my ways were directed to keep thy statutes !

			1st Lessons.		2nd Lessons.			
1	g	..	Prov.	11 12	Luke	13	Phil.	1
2	a	..	..	13 14	..	14	..	2
3	b	..	..	15 16	..	15	..	3
4	c	..	..	17 18	..	16	..	4
5	d	..	..	19 20	..	17	Collos.	1
6	e	..	..	21 22	..	18	..	2
7	f	..	..	23 24	..	19	..	3
8	g	..	..	25 26	..	20	..	4
9	a	..	..	27 28	..	21	1 Thes.	1
10	b	..	..	29 31	..	22	..	2
11	c	..	Eccles.	1 2	..	23	..	3
12	d	..	..	3 4	..	24	..	4
13	e	..	..	5 6	John	1	..	5
14	f	..	..	7 8	..	2	2 Thes.	1
15	g	..	..	9 10	..	3	..	2
16	a	..	..	11 12	..	4	..	3
17	b	..	Jeremi.	1 2	..	5	1 Tim.	1
18	c	..	..	3 4	..	6	..	2 3
19	d	..	..	5 6	..	7	..	4
20	e	..	..	7 8	..	8	..	5
21	f	..	..	9 10	..	9	..	6
22	g	..	..	11 12	..	10	2 Tim.	1
23	a	..	..	13 14	..	11	..	2
24	b	..	..	15 16	..	12	..	3
25	c	St. James	Is .57.	Dan. 12	..	13	..	4
26	d	Ap.	..	17 18	..	14	Titus	1
27	e	..	..	19 20	..	15	..	2 3
28	f	..	..	21 22	..	16	Philem.	
29	g	..	..	23 24	..	17	Hebrew	
30	a	..	..	25 26	..	18	..	2
31	b	..	..	27 28	..	19	..	3

AUGUST.

I will keep thy statutes, forsake me not utterly.

			1st Lessons.	2nd Lessons.		
1	c	..	Jeremi. 29 30	John 20	Heb.	4
2	d	..	.. 31 32	.. 21	..	5
3	e	..	.. 33 34	Acts 1	..	6
4	f	..	.. 35 36	.. 2	..	7
5	g	..	.. 37 38	.. 3	..	8
6	a	..	.. 39 40	.. 4	..	9
7	b	..	.. 41 42	.. 5	..	10
8	c	..	.. 43 44	.. 6	..	11
9	d	..	.. 45 46 47	.. 7	..	12
10	e	..	.. 48 49	.. 8	..	13
11	f	..	.. 50 51	.. 9	James	1
12	g	..	52 Lam. 1	.. 10	..	2
13	a	..	.. 2 3	.. 11	..	3
14	b	..	.. 4 5	.. 12	..	4
15	c	..	Ezra 1 2	.. 13	..	5
16	d	..	.. 3 4	.. 14	1 Peter	1
17	e	..	.. 5 6	.. 15	..	2
18	f	..	.. 7 8	.. 16	..	3
19	g	..	.. 9 10	.. 17	..	4
20	a	..	.. 11 12	.. 18	..	5
21	b	..	.. 13 14	.. 19	2 Peter	1
22	c	..	.. 15-18	.. 20	..	2
23	d	..	.. 19 20	.. 21	..	3
24	e	St. Bar.	Zeph. 3. Zc. 3	.. 22	1 John	1
25	f	..	.. 21 22	.. 23	..	2
26	g	..	.. 23-25	.. 24	..	3
27	a	..	.. 26-28	.. 25	..	4
28	b	..	.. 29 30	.. 26	..	5
29	c	..	.. 31 32	.. 27	2 John	3
30	d	..	.. 33 34	.. 28	Jude	
31	e	..	.. 35 36	Matt. 1	Roman	1

SEPTEMBER.

I will meditate in thy precepts.

			1st Lessons.	2nd Lessons.		
1	f	..	Ezra 37 38	Matth. 2	Roman 2	2
2	g	..	.. 39-43	.. 3	.. 3	3
3	a	..	.. 44-46	.. 4	.. 4	4
4	b	..	.. 47 48	.. 5	.. 5	5
5	c	..	Daniel 1 2	.. 6	.. 6	6
6	d	..	.. 3 4	.. 7	.. 7	7
7	e	..	.. 5 6	.. 8	.. 8	8
8	f	..	.. 7 8	.. 9	.. 9	9
9	g	..	.. 9 10	.. 10	.. 10	10
10	a	..	.. 11 12	.. 11	.. 11	11
11	b	..	Hosea 1 2 3	.. 12	.. 12	12
12	c	..	.. 4 5	.. 13	.. 13	13
13	d	..	.. 6 7	.. 14	.. 14	14
14	e	..	.. 8 9	.. 15	.. 15	15
15	f	..	.. 10 11	.. 16	.. 16	16
16	g	..	.. 12 13 14	.. 17	1 Cor. 1	1
17	a	..	Joel 1	.. 18	.. 2	2
18	b	..	.. 2 3	.. 19	.. 3	3
19	c	..	Amos 1 2	.. 20	.. 4	4
20	d	..	.. 3 4	.. 21	.. 5	5
21	e	St. Matt.	Jos. 14. Ho. 6	.. 22	.. 6	6
22	f	..	Amos 5 6	.. 23	.. 7	7
23	g	..	.. 7 8	.. 24	.. 8	8
24	a	..	Obadiah	.. 25	.. 9	9
25	b	..	Jo. 1 2 3 4	.. 26	.. 10	10
26	c	..	Mic. 1 2	.. 27	.. 11	11
27	d	..	.. 3 4	.. 28	.. 12	12
28	e	..	.. 5 6	Rev. 1	.. 13	13
29	f	St. Mic.	Ge.32 Dan.10	.. 2	.. 14	14
30	g	..	Mic.7. Nah.1	.. 3	.. 15	15

OCTOBER.

Great peace have they which love thy law.

			1st Lessons.			2nd Lessons.		
1	a	..	Nah.	2	3	Rev. 4	5	1 Cor. 16
2	b	..	Hab.	1	2	.. 6	7	2 Cor. 1
3	c	..	3 Zph.		1	.. 8	9	.. 2
4	d	..	..	2	3	10	11	.. 3
5	e	..	Hag.	1	2	12	13	.. 4
6	f	..	Zach.	1	2	.. 14	..	5
7	g	..	..	3	4	15	16	.. 6
8	a	..	..	5	6	.. 17	..	7
9	b	..	..	7	8	.. 18	..	8
10	c	..	..	9	10	.. 19	..	9
11	d	..	..	11	12	.. 20	..	10
12	e	..	..	13	14	.. 21	..	11
13	f	..	Malachi	1	2	.. 22	..	12
14	g	..	..	3	4	L. 1	1-39	.. 13
15	a	..	Levit.	1	2	L1	39-80	Gala. 1
16	b	..	..	3	4	.. 2	..	2
17	c	..	..	5	6	.. 3	..	3
18	d	St. Luke	2 Ki. 1.	Job	1	.. 4	..	4
19	e	..	Levit.	7	8	.. 5	..	5
20	f	..	..	9	10	.. 6	..	6
21	g	..	..	11-16	..	7	Ephes.	1
22	a	..	..	17-19	..	8	..	2
23	b	..	..	20-22	..	9	..	3
24	c	..	..	23	24	.. 10	..	4
25	d	..	..	25	26	.. 11	..	5
26	e	..	Num.	1-6	..	12	..	6
27	f	..	..	7-10	..	13	Phil.	1
28	g	St. Sim.	Job 24	25.	42	.. 14	..	2
29	a	& Jude.	1 Chron.	1-11	..	15	..	3
30	b	..	..	12-15	..	16	..	4
31	c	..	..	16	17	.. 17	Collos.	1

NOVEMBER.

Establish thy word unto thy servant.

		1st Lessons.		2nd Lessons.	
1	d	All Saints	Dt. 33. Is. 43	Hebr. 12	R. 19. 1-17
2	e	Day.	1 Chr. 18 19	Luke 18	Collos. 2
3	f	..	.. 20-22	.. 19	.. 3
4	g	..	.. 28 29	.. 20	.. 4
5	a	..	2 Chr. 1 2	.. 21	1 Thes. 1
6	b	..	.. 3 4	.. 22	.. 2
7	c	..	.. 5 6	.. 23	.. 3
8	d	..	.. 7 8	.. 24	.. 4
9	e	..	.. 9 10	John 1	.. 5
10	f	..	.. 11 12	.. 2	2 Thes. 1
11	g	..	.. 13 14	.. 3	.. 2
12	a	..	.. 15 16	.. 4	.. 3
13	b	..	.. 17 18	.. 5	1 Tim. 1
14	c	..	.. 19 20	.. 6	.. 2 3
15	d	..	.. 21 22	.. 7	.. 4
16	e	..	.. 23 24	.. 8	.. 5
17	f	..	.. 25 26	.. 9	.. 6
18	g	..	.. 27 28	.. 10	2 Tim. 1
19	a	..	.. 29 30	.. 11	.. 2
20	b	..	.. 31 32	.. 12	.. 3
21	c	..	.. 33 34	.. 13	.. 4
22	d	..	.. 35 36	.. 14	Titus. 1
23	e	..	Canticles.	.. 15	.. 2 3
24	f	..	Isaiah 1 2 3	.. 16	Philem.
25	g	..	.. 4 5	.. 17	Hebr. 1
26	a	..	.. 6 7	.. 18	.. 2
27	b	..	.. 8 9	.. 19	.. 3
28	c	..	.. 10 11	.. 20	.. 4
29	d	..	.. 12 13	.. 21	.. 5
30	e	St. Andrew.	Prov. 20 21	Acts 1	.. 6

DECEMBER.

Let my heart be sound in thy statutes.

			1st Lessons.		2nd Lessons.			
1	<i>f</i>	..	Isaiah	14 15	Acts	2	Heb.	7
2	<i>g</i>	..	..	16 17	..	3	..	8
3	<i>a</i>	..	..	18 19	..	4	..	9
4	<i>b</i>	..	20	21 22	..	5	..	10
5	<i>c</i>	..	..	23 24	..	6	..	11
6	<i>d</i>	..	..	25 26	7	1-30	..	12
7	<i>e</i>	..	..	27 28	7	31-60	..	13
8	<i>f</i>	..	..	29 30	..	8	James	1
9	<i>g</i>	..	..	31 32	..	9	..	2
10	<i>a</i>	..	..	33 34	..	10	..	3
11	<i>b</i>	..	..	35 36	..	11	..	4
12	<i>c</i>	..	..	37 38	..	12	..	5
13	<i>d</i>	..	..	39 40	..	13	1 Peter	1
14	<i>e</i>	..	..	41 42	..	14	..	2
15	<i>f</i>	..	..	43 44	..	15	..	3
16	<i>g</i>	..	..	45 46	..	16	..	4
17	<i>a</i>	..	..	47 48	..	17	..	5
18	<i>b</i>	..	..	49 50	..	18	2 Peter	1
19	<i>c</i>	..	..	51 52	..	19	..	2
20	<i>d</i>	..	..	53 54	..	20	..	3
21	<i>e</i>	St. Tho.	Prov.	23 24	..	21	1 John	1
22	<i>f</i>	..	..	55 56	..	22	..	2
23	<i>g</i>	..	..	57 58	..	23	..	3
24	<i>a</i>	..	..	59 60	..	24	..	4
25	<i>b</i>	..	Isaiah	9 7	Lu.2	1-15	Titus	3
26	<i>c</i>	St. Step.	Pro.28	Ecc.4	Acts	6	Acts	7
27	<i>d</i>	St. John	Eccles.	5 6	Rev.	1	Rev.	22
28	<i>e</i>	Innocen.	Jer.31	Zch.10	Acts	25	1 John	5
29	<i>f</i>	Day.	Isaiah	61 62	..	26	2 John	
30	<i>g</i>	..	..	63 64	..	27	3 John	
31	<i>a</i>	..	..	65 66	..	28	Jude	

THE CHURCH IN THE HOUSE.

“Wherever I have a tent, there God shall have an altar.”—
HOWARD.

“Greet the church that is in their house.”—ROM. xvi. 5.

“Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.”—MATT. xviii. 19, 20.

“Let the word of Christ dwell in you richly in all wisdom; teaching and admonishing one another in psalms, and hymns, and spiritual songs, singing with grace in your hearts to the Lord.”—COL. iii. 16.

“I know him (Abraham) that he will command his children and his household after him, and they shall keep the way of the Lord.”—GEN. xviii. 19.

“The voice of rejoicing and salvation is in the tabernacles of the righteous.”—PSALM, cxviii. 15.

[The Publisher introduces an Essay on Family Worship, written as he supposes by one of the clergy of the “Church of Scotland.” He knows not the author: He wishes he did, for he would like to take him by the hand and call him “brother.”]

IN Greenland when a stranger knocks at the door he asks, “Is God in this house?” And if they answer, “Yes;” he enters. Reader, this little messenger knocks at your door with the Greenland salutation. IS GOD IN THIS HOUSE? Were you like Abraham, entertaining an angel unawares,

what would be the report he would take back to heaven? Would he find you commanding your children and your household, and teaching them the way of the Lord? Would he find an altar in your dwelling? Do you worship God with your children? Is there *a church in your house?*

If not, then God is not in your house. A prayerless family is a godless family. It is worse. It is a family on which Jehovah frowns. He will pour out his fury upon it some day. "O Lord, pour out thy fury upon the heathen that know thee not, and upon the families that call not on thy name."* A prayerless family and a heathen family are here accounted the same.

I cannot mention all the reasons in favour of family worship; but if you ponder them, the four following should suffice:—

1. The godly householders mentioned in scripture practised it. Would you desire to be like Abraham, the friend of God? Wherever he pitched his tent, he builded an altar, and called on the name of the Lord;† and Jehovah declared concerning him, "I know Abraham, that he will command his children and his household after him, and they will keep the way of the Lord."‡ Would you like to resemble Job, "the perfect and upright man, one that feared God and eschewed evil?" He used to bring his children together, and rose early in the morning, and offered a sacrifice of as many victims as he had sons and daughters, teaching us how express and special our intercession for our families should be, and this he did "continually."||

* Jer. x. 25.

† Gen. xii. 7, 8; xiii. 4, 8.

‡ Gen. xviii. 19.

|| Job i. 5, 8.

Would you resemble David the man after God's own heart? At the close of a busy day, we find him going "home to bless his household."* Do you envy Cornelius, whose prayers were heard, and to whom the Lord sent a special messenger to teach him the way of salvation? He was a "devout man, one who feared God *with all his house*, and prayed to God always;" and who was so anxious for the salvation of his family, that he got together his kinsmen and near friends, that they might be ready to hear the apostle when he arrived, and share with himself the benefit.† Do you admire Aquila and Priscilla, Paul's "helpers in Christ Jesus," and who were so skilful in the scriptures, that they were able to teach a young minister the way of God more perfectly? You will find that one reason for familiarity with scripture was, that they had "a church in their house."‡ In the Bible you find instances of family devotion in all ranks of life, from the king to the artizan, from David's palace to the tent of Aquila; to teach you that whatever be your situation in life, you should still have a church in your house. I have sometimes seen family worship in great houses; but I have felt that God was quite as near when I knelt with a praying family on the earthen floor of their cottage. I have known of family worship among the reapers in a barn. It used to be common in the fishing boats upon the friths and lakes of Scotland. I have heard of its being observed in the depths of a coal-pit. I scarcely know the situation in life in which a willing family might not contrive to

* 1 Chron. xvi. 43.

† Acts. xviii. 26; Rom. xvi. 5.

‡ Acts x. 2, 24, 31, 33.

pray together. If you live in a scoffing ungodly neighbourhood, so much the better. Abraham built his altar whilst heathen Canaanites looked on. He lifted up a testimony for God, and God honoured him—so that Abimelech, his neighbour, was constrained to say, “God is with thee in all that thou doest.”*

2. Wherever religion revives, family worship abounds. When the Spirit is poured out upon the house of David, “the land shall mourn, every *family* apart.”† I can remember no instance of a great revival, of which this was not an attendant sign. Listen to the account which Mr. Baxter gives of Kidderminster during his ministry. “On the Lord’s day there was no disorder to be seen in the streets, but you might hear a hundred families singing psalms and repeating sermons, as you passed through the streets. When I came thither first, there was about one family in a street that worshipped God and called on his name, and when I came away, there were some streets, where there was not above one family in the side of a street that did not so; and that did not by professing serious godliness give us some hopes of their sincerity; and those families which were the worst, being inns, and ale-houses, usually some persons in each did seem to be religious. Some of the poor men did competently understand the body of divinity, and were able to judge in difficult controversies. Some of them were so able in prayer, that very few ministers did match them in order, and fulness, and apt expressions, and holy oratory with fervency. Abundance of them were able to

*Gen. xxi. 22.

† Zech. x. 12.

pray very laudably with their families or with others. The temper of their minds and the innocence of their lives was much more laudable than their parts." When the Spirit is poured upon us, our cities will all present a similar aspect.

3. It would make your home much happier if you had a church in your house. It has been said with much truth, "Family prayer is the oil which removes friction and causes all the complicated wheels of the family to move smoothly and noiselessly." It is one way, and the very best, for bringing all the members of a family together, and for promoting that harmony of feeling so essential to domestic enjoyment. Some families are held together by hardly any bond, except that they lodge under the same roof, and assemble round the same board. But when they meet, it is not to fulfil one another's joy. They are selfish and sullen; cross words, peevish answers, and angry recriminations make up all their intercourse. The customary meal is dispatched in a gloomy silence, orembittered by fretful words. I have known families so little at home with one another, that it was quite a relief when any casual visitor dropped in to break the irksomeness, of their own society. I have seen brothers and sisters so ill-assorted in the families in which God had planted them together, that they had no subject of common interest and no mutual love nor confidence. They could converse and be happy with strangers, but not with one another. And I have seen this in families where there was a form of family worship—a pretence, a semblance of prayer—but never where there was the reality. If yours be such a family, before peace and affection visit it, you must

say, "Come and let us seek the Lord." If you would see the dawn of blander days on that clouded and lowering circle, you must cry, "Lord lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us, and so we shall be glad." If you could only persuade them to take into their hands the volume that speaks good will to man, and as they sit together to read by turns its messages of kindness; and then as they bowed before the mercy-seat, if in their common name, you said, *Our Father*, and confessed their common sins, returned thanks for any mercies which the day had brought, and asked such blessings as all need, this process could not be long persisted in, till you would see its softening and harmonizing influence. The dew of Hermon would begin to come down, and you would exclaim as you saw the difference, "Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."*

But perhaps your family dwells in unity—but it is not a holy unity. It is not sanctified by the word of God and by prayer. You are happy in one another. You are never at a loss for the materials of a cheerful intercourse. But amidst all the sprightliness, and cordiality, and kind feeling which encompass your fire-side, one ingredient of gladness is wanting. God is forgotten. In the morning, you meet and give one another a joyous greeting, and the morning meal dispatched rush away to the day's engagements without a word of acknowledgment to that God whose sleepless eye guarded your midnight pillow—without one word of prayer to bespeak his upholding and guidance in this

* Psalm, cxxxiii.

day's untrodden path. And when the evening hour of intercourse is over, and you have discussed the pleasant or prosperous incidents of the day, you hie away, *cheerful* but *unthankful*, to a prayerless slumber, perhaps, to awake in the grasp of the King of Terrors, and find that the Lord is not with you. Your family is united—but it is a short-lived union. Your family-love, God is not in it, and therefore heaven does not follow after it. How it would give tone and intensity to the affection of your smiling circle, if you could be brought to love one another *in the Lord*! With what new eyes you would learn to look upon yourselves, if you came to regard one another as brethren for eternity! And how it would heighten bliss, and take the sharpness out of sorrow, if “For ever with the Lord” were the thought which joy and grief most readily suggested! Were it manifest of all the members of a family that God is their Father, Christ their elder Brother, and the Holy Spirit their Comforter, such a family would possess a joy which the removal of no member could take away. That joy has often come into households through the channel of domestic devotion. For,

4. Family worship is an ordinance which God has often blessed to the saving of souls. In houses where it is conducted with life and feeling, it has often proved a converting ordinance. A few years ago, an English gentleman visited America, and spent some days with a pious friend. He was a man of talent and accomplishments, but an infidel. Four years afterwards, he returned to the same house, a Christian. They wondered at the change, but little suspected when and where it had originated. He told them that when he was present

at their family worship, on the first evening of his former visit, and when after the chapter was read, they all knelt down to pray—the recollection of such scenes in his father's house long years ago, rushed in on his memory, so that he did not hear a single word. But the occurrence made him *think*, and his thoughtfulness ended in his leaving the howling wilderness of infidelity, and finding a quiet rest in the salvation wrought out by Jesus Christ. In his *Fireside*, Mr. Abbot tells us of a gay young lady who paid a visit of a week in the family of a minister, an eminently holy man. His fervent intercessions for his children and the other inmates of his dwelling, went to this thoughtless heart: they were the Spirit's arrow, and upon that family altar, his visitor was enabled to present herself a living sacrifice to God. It is with the church in the house as with the church in the village. The wayfarer may get a word in passing, which he never can forget. The stranger that turns aside to tarry for a night may hear at your family worship the word that will save his soul. Some years ago, an Irish wanderer, his wife, and his sister, asked a night's shelter in the cabin of a pious school-master. With the characteristic hospitality of his nation, the schoolmaster made them welcome. It was his hour for evening worship, and when the strangers were seated, he began by reading slowly and solemnly, the second chapter of the Epistle to the Ephesians. The young man sat astonished. The expressions, "Dead in trespasses and sins," "Children of wrath," "Walking after the course of this world," were new to him. He sought an explanation. He was told that this is God's account of the state of man by nature. He

felt that it was exactly his own state. "In this way I have walked from my childhood. In the service of the god of this world we have come to your house." He was on the way to a fair, where he intended to pass a quantity of counterfeit money. But God's word had found him out. He produced his store of coin, and begged his host to cast it into the fire; and asked anxiously if he could not obtain the Word of God for himself. His request was complied with, and next morning, with the new treasure, the party who had now no errand to the fair, returned to their own home. Perhaps, by this time the pious school-master has met his guest within the gates of the city, outside of which are thieves and whatsoever maketh a lie. But I cannot enumerate all the conversions which have occurred at the Church in the House. Many servants have been awakened there. Children have often heard there truths, which when the Spirit brought them to remembrance in after days; perhaps, in days of profligacy, and when far from their father's house—have sent home the prodigal. It is not only Zion's solemn assemblies, but of Jacob's humble dwellings—the little fireside sanctuaries—"that the Lord shall count when he writeth up the people, 'This man was born there.'" In your house there have been, perhaps, several immortal spirits born into the world. Have there been any born again?

Prayerless parents! Your irreligion may prove your children's damnation. They might have been within the fold of the Saviour by this time, had not you hindered them when entering in. That time when God visited your family with a heavy stroke, they were thoughtful for a season, but

there was no Church in your house to give a heavenly direction to that thoughtfulness, and it soon died away. That evening when they came home from the Sabbath School so serious, if you had been a pious father or mother, you would have taken your boy aside, and spoken tenderly to him, and asked what his teacher had been telling him ; and you would have prayed with him, and tried to deepen the impression. But your children came in from the church or school, and found no church in their father's house. Their hearts were softened, but your worldliness soon hardened them. The seed of the kingdom was just springing in their souls, and by this time might have been a rich harvest of salvation ; but in the atmosphere of your ungodly house, the tender blade withered instantly. Your idle talk, your frivolity, your Sunday visitors, your prayerless evening, ruined all. Your children were coming to Christ, and you suffered them not. And you will not need to hinder them long. The carnal mind is enmity against God ; but no enmity so deep as theirs who were almost reconciled and then drew back. You drove your children back. You hardened them. They may never more be moved. They may grow up as prayerless and ungodly as yourself. If God should change yourself, they may soon be too hard for your own tears and entreaties. If you die as you are, their evil works will follow you to the world of woe, and pour new ingredients into your own cup of wrath. Oh ! think of these things. A prayerless house is not only a cheerless one, but it is a guilty one ; for where God is not, there Satan is.

But I know not why I should multiply words to

prove a duty which nature teaches. The poor pagan with his household gods and family altar will rise in the judgment against some of this generation and will condemn them. Instead, therefore, of saying more on the obligation and advantages of this most reasonable service, I shall endeavour to give some plain directions to those into whose hearts the Lord has put the desire to begin it.

1. Can you sing? or is there any one in the house who can? You will find it enliven the service wonderfully if you can make "a joyful noise unto the Lord." The psalm or hymn is a part of the service which the youngest enjoy, and in which they will gladly take a share.

2. There is the reading of the Word of God. You may go straight through, or you may select a course of subjects. For instance, you might read the parables as one series, and the miracles of Christ as another. You might select the biographical portions, and read the lives of Adam, Noah, Abraham, Peter, Paul, &c.; or you might read the Epistles in connection with the history of the churches, or individuals to whom they are addressed. Thus you might compare Ephesians with Acts xviii—xx. and with Rev. ii. 1—8; or Thessalonians with Acts xvii. 1—13; and you might compare the Psalms with the period in David's history when each was written, and the Prophecies with those passages which record their fulfilment—a comparison, which a Bible, with good marginal references, will enable you to make. Or you may select passages appropriate to particular seasons. On the morning of a Lord's day, you might read Ps. xlviii, lxiii, lxxxiv, xcii, cxviii; John

xx; Rev. i. &c. On a sacramental Sabbath, Psal. xxii, xlv; Isa. liii; Matt. xxvi; John vi, &c. It might help to keep attention awake, if each read a verse in rotation. At other times there might be more solemnity if the same person read the whole continuously. It would make it more impressive and more memorable, if you occasionally asked a question, or made a few remarks on the passage read. For instance, you read the nineteenth of Luke, and this is your commentary as you go along.

1. "And Jesus entered and passed through Jericho.

2. "And behold there was a man named Zaccheus, which was the chief among the publicans, (or tax-gatherers) and he was rich.

3. "And he sought to see Jesus, who he was: and could not for the press, because he was little of stature."

'This was the last time that Jesus passed through Jericho. He had often passed quietly through it before: but now his time was fully come, and he could not be hid. The road was full of passengers at this season at any rate; for it was passover time, and they were all going up to Jerusalem. Besides, the sensation in Jericho was increased by the miracle which Jesus had just wrought on the blind beggar, and which we read in the last chapter yesterday. The crowd was so great that Zaccheus could get no opening to push through, and he was so little that he could not see over other people's shoulders.

4. "And he ran before, and climbed up into a sycamore tree to see him: for he was to pass that way.

5. "And when Jesus came to the place he looked up, and saw him, and said unto him, Zaccheus, make haste, and come down; for to-day I must abide at thy house."

How surprised he must have been! Up in the leafy sycamore, he never expected to be noticed. But see! Jesus stands still and looks at him as if he were about to speak. Perhaps, Zaccheus expected to get a rebuke before the multitude for his villanies, when Jesus, in his own gentle way, just says, "Zaccheus, make haste, and come down; for to-day I must abide at thy house." Grace went with the word.

6. "And he made haste, and came down, and received him joyfully.

7. "And when they saw it, they all murmured, saying, That he was gone to be guest with a man that is a sinner."

There were many who felt that they had a better right to this distinction than the mean grasping tax-gatherer. Many of them felt as if they were not SINNERS. It lowered their opinion of Christ, that he would condescend to become the guest of such a man. They little knew the reason.

8. "And Zaccheus stood, and said unto the Lord, behold, Lord, the half of my goods I give to the poor: and if I have taken any thing from any man by false accusation, I restore him fourfold."

How glad he must have been! A happy heart devises liberal things—and so happy had this visit made him, that his greedy soul had no longer love for money. He stood up like one on whom a sudden thought had come, or who wished to give solemnity to what he said, and declared that he would make it all up to those whom he had wronged, and give half his substance to the poor. This was the effect of receiving Jesus. Where the love of Christ enters, the love of the world goes

out. What would the murmurers think when they saw this change upon the "sinner."

9. "And Jesus said unto him, This day is salvation come to this house, forsomuch as he also is a son of Abraham."

It was his "joyful receiving" of Jesus which made him a son of Abraham. It made him more. It made him one of the sons of God.* Have we received Christ? Has his voice ever made us joyful? Have we ever parted with "goods," or any thing else from gratitude to Him? Now let us remember the next verse, for it is one of Christ own faithful sayings.

10. "For the Son of Man is come to seek and to save that which was lost."

This is one way. Another and perhaps better way, is to make the members of the family supply the commentary themselves. This evening, before it is so late that you are all sleepy, you sit round the table each with his Bible open before him; and the passage selected is the forty-fifth of Isaiah.

1. "Thus saith the Lord to his anointed, to Cyrus, whose right hand I have holden, to subdue nations before him; and I will loose the loins of kings, to open before him the two-leaved gates; and the gates shall not be shut."

Father. The prophet has been foretelling the fall of Babylon, and here he names its conqueror. Mary, what is his name?

Mary. Cyrus.

Father. Does any one know how long after

* John, i. 12.

this it was before Cyrus made his appearance?—Can no one tell! George, your Bible has got the date on its margin. Can you tell when Isaiah uttered this prophecy?

George. About 712 years before Christ.

Father. Now if you will look to the beginning of Ezra, you will see the first year of Cyrus set down there.

George. Before Christ 536.

Father. Then how long before had the Lord called Cyrus by his name?

George. Nearly 200 years.

Father. It is not very long since John and Henry finished the life of Cyrus. Do you remember any facts which illustrate this prophecy?

Henry. The Lord says, "I have holden his right hand to subdue nations before him." Cyrus subdued the Lydians with their rich king Cræsus, the Phrygians, the Phœnicians, and many more, as well as the Babylonians.

John. Yes; and when he took Babylon, "the gates were not shut." For the people were all drinking and diverting themselves, when he dried up the river; and had forgot to shut the gates at the end of the streets which open into the river—so that Cyrus had nothing to do but march down the dry channel, and then climb up the banks into the city.

Father. Very true—but do you remember nothing more about "opening the two-leaved gates."

Henry. Oh, yes! When the king of Babylon heard the uproar in the city, he sent to find out what was the matter, and when they were opening

the palace gates to let out the king's messenger, the Persians rushed in and killed the king.

Try to bring out some lesson that may be needed that very day. You read at morning worship that verse, 1 Cor. x. 31.

“Whether, therefore, ye eat or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God.”

Father. What does that mean?

John. That everything, however little, we are to do it so as to please God.

Father. Quite so. It means that you, children when learning your lessons, or at play—that Sarah down stairs, and your father in his counting room, should all remember that we have a Father in heaven, and should do *every* thing, the little things and the great things, in the way that pleases Him.

Mother. This was the principle on which Oberlin acted. Here is a passage which I marked, when I read his life not long ago.

“The views of religion which Oberlin entertained, made him bring the greatest principles to the minutest operation. He would take a stone out of the road, if it were likely to incommode a traveller, on the principle of love to his neighbour: and in this manner he argued respecting the duties in which mankind are engaged. Take, for instance, a direction to his people, on planting trees. This, with other men, would be an affair of convenience; with him, in his circumstances, it was a religious duty. He thus addressed his parishioners.

November 18th, 1803.

“DEAR FRIENDS,

“Satan, the enemy of mankind, rejoices when we demolish and destroy. Our Lord Jesus Christ, on the contrary, rejoices when we labour for the public good. You all desire to be saved by him, and hope to become partakers of

his glory. Please Him, then by every possible means, during the remainder of the time you may have to live in this world. He is pleased, when, from the principle of love, you plant trees for the public benefit. Now is the season. Be willing then to plant them. Plant them also in the best possible manner. Remember you do it to please him. Put all your roads into good condition; ornament them; employ some of your trees for this purpose, and attend to their growth."

Father. Well, let us do like Oberlin. Let us be kind, and obliging, and useful; and remember that nothing is so little, but that we may do it to the glory of God.

The passage which you mean to read with your family, read it carefully over beforehand; and consider what are its most striking points and most useful lessons; and a little practice will make you a good family expositor.

3. The last and most important part of family worship is united prayer. By prayer, I mean the outpouring of an earnest heart in the name of Jesus. It is not prayer when you merely read or repeat a heartless form. You do not ask a blessing on your daily bread, when you merely mutter over it a charm—a few inarticulate words for custom's sake. Nor do you pray when you bend the knee, and read or say a few petitions which you do not feel, and which you forget as soon as you have uttered. It is prayer, when you ask from God blessings which you are really anxious to obtain, and when, in a conviction of your own unworthiness, you ask them for the sake of Him who indeed is worthy, the well-beloved Son of God. It is prayer, when you ask so earnestly that you remember afterwards what you sought, and so believingly, that looking up you expect an answer.

Be earnest. Better no prayer, than give your family a distaste at prayer, by your dulness and formality. Be honest. Deal truly with the God of Truth. Do not mock the Searcher of hearts.—Give yourself to the Lord—then set up his worship. Go to the Lord Jesus yourself, and then seek to bring your children with you.

In family prayer you may be more minute and specific than it is possible to be in more public services. If you have a deep reverence of God upon your mind, there is no fear that particularity will degenerate into unholy familiarity. If any of your friends are in affliction, pray for them. If your children are at school, or at a sabbath class, pray for their teacher. Pray for your brethren in church-fellowship, that the beauty of the Lord may be upon them, and that they may dwell in love. Pray for the office-bearers of your church—pray for your minister. Endeavour to interest your family in the extension of the Redeemer's kingdom, and pray for faithful ministers and missionaries, especially in those places in which you feel most interested. Every morning commit your way to God. Bespeak his presence in all its duties and temptations—his blessing on your intercourse; and especially on any means of grace, which you hope that day to enjoy. Every night commend yourself to his watchful keeping, that you may sleep and wake with Him. Pray over the scriptures you have read. And abound in thanksgiving. Cultivate a cheerful and grateful spirit; think if there be any mercies you have lately received, and acknowledge them. Has any one arrived from a journey safe and well? Is a sick member of the family restored?

Have you heard good news from the far country, tidings from the absent brother? Were you at church or at the prayer-meeting this evening? And did you find it refreshing? Have you read in your *Missionary Magazine*, the conversion of a heathen or a Jew? Have you heard that God is pouring out His Spirit on some corner of our own country? Have you got an answer to a former prayer? Praise the Lord, for it is pleasant.

It will depend on the age of your family and the amount of your leisure, how long the service should be. Some hurry it over in a way which shows that they have no heart in it themselves. Others prolong it so, that every one else is wearied. Ten minutes of a formal service will look longer than twice the time when the whole soul is in it.

Be consistent. "Behave yourself wisely in a perfect way. Walk within your house with a perfect heart."* If you be devout in prayer, and unholy in practice; if you be heavenly-minded at the hour of worship, and frivolous, or proud, or passionate all the day; if you teach your children in the morning. "Be not conformed to this world," and if half the day's lessons be designed to conform them to the world as nearly as possible; if you pray for your household that you may be all meek, and gentle, and kindly-affectioned one to another, and then treat your servants as haughtily as if they were your slaves or your enemies; your contradictory prayers and practices will be a terrible stumbling-block in their way to the kingdom. God may convert them; but your conduct

* Psalm, ci. 2.

will make that miracle of grace more miraculous still.

Reader, I do not know whether by this time you are almost persuaded, or have actually determined to begin. When I think what you are losing who are strangers to this delightful exercise, and when I farther think on the blessed results which might flow from your now beginning it, I am loth to leave off—though it is time we were done. Do you still hesitate? What is your excuse?

“I never saw the advantages you describe. It has always been a dull service wherever I have seen it.” But *you* need not make it dull. Throw your whole heart and soul into it, and it will be lively enough. It is often dull because it is a mere form. Do you make it a living service, and it will not be dull. It is often dull, because it is tedious. Do not spin it out. Better one paragraph of scripture, feelingly and intelligently read, than a whole chapter listlessly drawled over. Better a prayer no longer than the publican’s,* if the whole soul be in it, than a weary form without feeling. Be fervent, and you will not be dull. Family prayer has often been so conducted, that instead of wearying at it, children felt it a punishment to be excluded. I was once told of a cottage patriarch who was born in those days, when Scotland had a church in almost every house. There was one in his father’s dwelling, and when he pitched a tent for himself, he builded an altar. Round that altar a goodly number of olive plants grew up, but one by one they were either planted out in families of their own, or God took them, till he

* Luke, xviii. 13.

and his old partner found themselves, just as at their first outset in life, alone. But their family worship continued as of old. At last his fellow-traveller left him. Still he carried on the worship by himself. So sweet was the memory of it in his father's house, and so pleasant had he found it in his own, that he could not give it up. But as he sat in his silent habitation, morning and evening, his quivering voice was overheard singing the old psalm-tune, reading aloud the chapter, and praying as if others still worshipped by his side. He had not found it dull.

"I have no time." If you really value time, family prayer is good husbandry of time. What you do with God's blessing is much better and faster done than what you do without it, *and is not so likely to need doing over again*. You will find it here as Sir Matthew Hale found it with the Sabbath. What you take from God, he can easily take from you. If other things were equal, I should expect far more to be accomplished in a day, by the man whose spirit had been tranquilized, his resolution fortified, and his activity quickened by morning prayer, than from the man who impiously hurried out to do it all without asking God's presence. Philip Henry, who was an excellent economist of time, when early out of bed to hasten the preparations for a day's travel: as he called his children together, used to say to them, "Prayer and provender hinder no man's journey." Try his homely maxim and you will find it true.

"Our family is so small." How many are there of you? Are there two? Then, "Wheresoever two," (see Matt. xviii. 19, 20.) John Howard and his valet, as they journeyed from place to place,

used to have family worship by themselves, if they could get no one else to join them. "Wherever I have a tent," he would say, "there God shall have an altar." If there be two of you—though it should be but a Ruth and a Naomi, a mother and her daughter, your family is large enough to worship God, and to get the blessing of those who worship him.

"My family is so large. There are so many servants, and often so many visitors, that I have not courage to begin." If your family be large, the obligation to begin is all the greater. Many suffer by your neglect. And if your congregation be numerous, the likelihood that some good will be done is the greater; for there are more to share the benefit. And why want courage? Should not the very fact that you are acknowledging God encourage you? "Them that honour me, I will honour." Begin it believingly, and in the very attempt courage will come.

"But I have no gift of prayer. I cannot lead the devotions of my family." Prayer is the gift of the Holy Spirit.* Before you begin ask God to give you his Spirit to teach you.† I have heard of stammering men who were eloquent in prayer, for the Spirit of God spake by them. When you pray, Remember that God is listening. You have called on Him to hearken. You have asked him to lend you an attentive ear, for you are about to ask mercies for yourself and your dearest friends. Remember that God is listening, and you will forget that men are hearkening. And they in their turn, when they find that you are really praying, will

* Romans, viii. 26.

† Luke, xi. 13.

have no time to criticise—for they will be constrained to join you in your prayer.

But, perhaps, I have not after all touched your real objection. You refuse to pray in your family, because you know that you do not pray in your closet. You evade it, because you know that your life is such that family worship would, in your case, be a mockery, and would only add hypocrisy to sin. Or you are under the influence of that false shame which will be felt to be the most shameful of all things, when the now affronted Son of God comes again in his glory.* Is it so? And are you about to throw away this tract with your purpose unchanged? Then I can only say that the day is coming, when you will wish that you never had any brethen—(Luke, xvi. 27.) that the Lord had written you childless—that you had been a poor outcast with no roof to shelter you, rather than the ungodly husband and father, and master, which you this day are—for then you had been free from blood-guiltiness in the case of others' souls.

The considerations by which I have tried to urge you to a discharge of this duty are, the obligations which you owe to yourselves, to your children, and to God: to yourselves, who will never have the same inward happiness, nor the same satisfaction in your family circle, till once the voice of rejoicing, the melody and praise, which are heard in the tabernacles of the righteous, be heard in your own: to your children, who will rise up and call you blessed, if you guide their feet into the way of peace: to God, who offers to become the never-

* Mark, viiii. 38.

slumbering keeper of you and yours, and to uphold your going out and coming in from this time forth for ever. These are the considerations I have used. Some of you may think that I would have succeeded better, if I had dwelt on the beautiful and picturesque of family religion; if I had carried you back to the time when the Glory of domestic piety had her habitation in our land, when villages and towns presented a look of Sabbath quietness at the hour of morning prayer, and when night succeeding night, repeated the praises of God from the lonely upland cottage to the hamlet on the plain. I might have done this; and I might have planted you amidst the worshipping household, and invited you to listen to the cordial music of their psalm, and the pathos and fervour of their prayer. But one thing hinders me. I know that all that is beautiful and picturesque in domestic devotion, has not only been witnessed but described by those whom its loveliness could never win to an imitation. It is one thing for a heart full of sensibility to be touched by contemplating the beauty and the joys of true devotion, and quite another thing for a renewed heart to feel these joys. Hundreds have been melted by the matchless poem, in which the bard of Scotland describes the worship of a cottage patriarch; but the *Cottar's Saturday Night* never taught any man to pray. It is told of Sir Walter Scott, that sometimes of an evening he took his guests to an arbour on his lawn, and let them hear the distant music of a sacred tune. It came from the cottage of one of his dependants, and fell touchingly on the ear of the great minstrel himself—but it only touched the ear. He and his visitors went back to the drawing-room

at Abbotsford, but it was not to raise with their better skill an evening hymn of thanksgiving to the God of all their mercies. The distant cadence of a covenanting melody was somewhat romantic, but nearer hand it would have blended ill with the dance and the tabret. They all agreed that the voice of psalms from a cottage was picturesque—but that in the mansion, the harp and the viol would be more appropriate.* If higher considerations have no weight, I am sure that a little picture-work will not prevail upon you.

Fathers and brethren, some of you are the heads of happy families to-day. All that I ask is, that you would make them happier still. Happy, not only in your love, but in the love of God the Saviour, happy for time and through eternity. The happiest family will not be always so. The most smiling circle will be in tears some day. All that

* These merry halls were soon after silent, and “the voice of harpers, and musicians, and of pipers” has never since been heard in them. The “psalm-singing” servant was a brother born for adversity, and on the breaking up of the establishment, refused to leave his master, and rather than leave him offered to serve for nothing. In his new post of ploughman, it affected the poor baronet to hear “Old Peep” whistling to his team, as he trod the fresh turned furrows. It was a change to both; but it would seem that the one possessed a source of perennial joy which outward calamities could not dry up nor trouble. And after all, in an angel’s eye, which is the greater genius—the sublimer spirit—the poet on his Pegasus, or the peasant, who in the hour of calamity can take the wings of a dove, and fly away and be *at rest*? Who that has read the latter days of Robert Burns, does not wish that he had been his own *Cottar*? He sometimes wished it himself. The son of Bosor is not the only man whom the sight of Jacob’s goodly tents has made to sigh, “Let me die the death of the righteous.”

I ask is, that you would secure for yourselves and your children, a friend in that blessed Redeemer, who will wipe all tears from all faces. Your families may soon be scattered, and familiar voices may cease to echo within your walls. They may go each to his own, and some of them may go far away. O see to it, that the God of Bethel goes with them, that they set up an altar even on a distant shore, and sing the Lord's song in that foreign land. They may be taken from this earth altogether, and leave you alone. O see to it, that as one after another goes, it may be to their Father's house above, and to sing with heavenly voices, and to a heavenly harp, the song which they first learned from you, and with you often sang together here—the song of Moses and the Lamb. And if you be taken, and some of them be left, see to it that you leave them the thankful assurance that you are gone to their Father, and your Father, their God, and your God. And in the meanwhile, let your united worship be so frequent and so fervent, that when you are taken from their head, the one whose sad office it is to supply your place, as priest of that household, shall not be able to select a chapter or a Psalm, with which your living image and voice are not associated, and in which you, though dead, are yet speaking to them. And thus my heart's wish for you all,

When soon or late you reach that coast,
O'er life's rough ocean driven;
May you rejoice, no wanderer lost,
A family in heaven."

*National Scotch Church, Regent Square,
January 1st, 1842.*

FAMILY PRAYERS.

FIRST WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

O LORD, who after thou hadst made the heavens and the earth, didst rest on the seventh day from all thy works, and who hast commanded us, thy creatures to set apart a seventh portion of time to thy more peculiar service ; help us, we humbly beseech thee, to obey thy holy commandment, by sanctifying this day to thy honour. We thank thee that thou hast been pleased to require us to love and serve thee ; because we know that in thy favour only is life ; and we bless thee that thou causest us to rest from our worldly callings this day, that we may enjoy more favourable opportunities for private, family, and public prayer, for hearing and reading thy holy word, for meditation, and for serious conversation with each other.

O Lord, we desire to begin the day and the week with thee. Let a solemn sense of thy presence be upon our minds ; and while we offer our supplications, in the name of our only Mediator, the Lord Jesus Christ, comfort our hearts by the assurance that thou art nigh unto all them that call upon thee, even all such as call upon thee faithfully. Though we cannot see thee with our bodily eyes, enable us to believe that the prayers which we offer up unto thee, shall be heard and answered.

We are, indeed, O Almighty Father, unworthy to be called thy children, because we have, in numberless instances, sinned against thee. Glory be to thy name, that thou hast given thy dear Son Jesus Christ to die for sinners : for we acknowledge that we must otherwise have perished everlastingly. But thou hast had mercy on us, and hast made known to us, by thy word, how we may be saved. O Lord, help us to ask, this day, with due anxiety of mind, as persons who are sensible of the value of their souls, “ What must I do to be saved ? ”

We thank thee, O Lord, for the opportunities which we are invited to enjoy this day, of offering up our prayers and praises publicly in thy house, and of hearing those blessed truths,

the knowledge of which is essential to the salvation of our souls. O give us grace diligently to attend thy word; enable us to understand it, and make us anxious to improve by it; that the sermons which we hear may not rise up in judgment against us at the great day. Bless, O gracious God, the ministers of thy gospel, especially our own, who show unto us the way of salvation. Do thou teach them, that they may be able to teach us. O Lord, may thy word this day awaken our consciences, that we may see more evil in the nature of sin, more danger from the guilt of it, and be more earnest to secure an interest in Christ, the only Saviour from it. May our neighbours and acquaintances also be stirred up to a concern for their never-dying souls; and may thy grace be set forth in saving us and them from the wrath to come, which we confess we have deserved.

We pray, O Lord, that we may be kept this day from all worldly thoughts and words; and may thy Spirit suggest such things to our minds as are suitable to this holy time. O may we keep thy sabbath in a becoming manner, and love it as the best day of the seven, because it is a season dedicated to thy service. Preserve us, while in thy house, from a stupid

and a wandering frame; give us the spirit of grace and of supplications that we may worship thee in spirit and in truth, strengthen our memories to retain what we hear, and make this day a time of real benefit to our souls, for which we may have reason to bless thee to all eternity. We are ignorant; do thou instruct us. We are guilty; do thou pardon us. We are wicked; do thou convert us, for Jesus Christ's sake: to whom, with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Spirit, we ascribe all honour, glory, and praise, now, and for evermore. Amen. Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

SUNDAY EVENING.

WE thank thee, most merciful Father, for the spiritual and temporal blessings which we have received from thee this day. We acknowledge that we are altogether unworthy of every one of them. We adore thee for thy love, made known to us by the gospel of thy dear Son, for the means of grace, and the hope of glory. Oh, how wonderful it is, that to us miserable sinners should be preached the forgiveness of sins through the blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, and that we should be in-

vited to partake of it! We have been told, O Lord, of our sinfulness, before thee; we beseech thee to make us feel it! May the remembrance of our sins be grievous to us, and may the burden of them become intolerable. We have a gracious Saviour, who died to put away our sins; O may we believe on him, and receive him into our hearts as the hope of glory! And as we know that we cannot rightly understand what we have heard, nor practise it, without thy grace, O Lord, send to us thy Holy Spirit, according to thy merciful promise, that thy truth may take hold of our consciences, and be the means of bringing us to eternal life.

Lord, give us now, at the close of this holy day, a due sense of the unspeakable value of our precious souls. May we be convinced that a man would be nothing profited, who should gain the whole world, and lose his own soul. One more precious sabbath is passed; and we know not that we shall see another. Before another comes, we may be called into eternity. Oh, how many sabbaths have we lost! How little has the present been spent as it ought to have been! How cold have been our prayers for thy grace! How insensible our hearts to thy word! And though we have been informed that Christ died to save us,

how little have we been affected with that delightful truth ! O merciful God, forgive us, and help us this night, before we close our eyes in sleep, to flee to Christ for pardon and salvation ; that, if we lie down to rise no more, we may sleep in Jesus, and be eternally glorified through him.

We pray thee, if we are permitted to see the light of another day, to grant that the recollection of what we have heard may be fresh in our memories through the week. When we are tempted to sin, may we remember that sin crucified our dearest Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. O may we be enabled in dependence on thy grace, to sin no more ! May we shun the persons and places which have led us to transgress. May we fear to offend thee, more than to lose our very lives, and seek more to please thee, than to save those lives. May we be ashamed of sin, and of nothing else. May we not be ashamed to confess the faith of Christ crucified, but manfully fight under his banner against sin, the world, and the devil, and continue his faithful soldiers and servants unto death.

O God, whose nature and property is ever to have mercy, and to forgive, receive our humble petitions ; and though we be tied and bound with the chain of our sins, yet let the pitiful-

ness of thy great mercy loose us for the honour of Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Advocate. Amen. Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

MONDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, our heavenly Father, we acknowledge that we and all men were conceived and born in sin; and what is born of the flesh is flesh; and they who are in the flesh cannot please God, but live in sin, committing many actual transgressions. We know also that our Saviour Christ has said, No man can enter into the kingdom of God, except he be regenerate, and born anew of water and of the Holy Ghost. Mercifully look upon us; wash us, and sanctify us with the Holy Ghost; that we, being delivered from thy wrath, may be received into the ark of Christ's church; and, being steadfast in faith, joyful through hope, and rooted in charity, may so pass the waves of this troublesome world, that finally we may come to the land of everlasting life, there to reign with thee, world without end, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

We are again entering, most gracious God, on the business of our lawful callings, in which

thy providence has placed us. But we engage in the cares and business of the world this day with fear and trembling, lest through the temptations to which we are exposed, we should dishonour thee by sin, and so wound our own souls as to bring home with us at night a guilty conscience. O Lord, may this fear of offending thee be kept alive in our hearts all this day. May our employments be sanctified, and made comfortable by a sense of thy presence. Let us remember, that, "to eat bread in the sweat of our brow," is the effect of our sinfulness. May this thought humble us, and make us patient under our labours. May we be truly thankful, that we are hitherto preserved and have a hope, through grace, of getting safe to heaven.

Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts! O, make it our earnest desire this day to grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ! May thy Holy Spirit instruct us, even while we are at our daily employment, and bring to our remembrance what we yesterday heard. May we be kept from profaneness; may we be preserved from every temptation; may no sinful expression proceed out of our mouth. O, may we remember that we are the Lord's servants!

May all our conduct be under the direction of his word. May we abhor sin, and fly from it as from the face of a serpent; and may nothing ever induce us to say, or do the least thing which our consciences condemn. But may we rather suffer any thing than wound our blessed Saviour, and grieve the Holy Spirit. Hold thou up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not.

Help us, O Lord, to spend this day, as if it were the last we had to spend on earth. We know not that we shall live to see another. May God of his mercy save us for Jesus Christ's sake; in whose precious name, and comprehensive words, we sum up all our wants, saying, Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

MONDAY EVENING.

WE do not presume to come into thy presence, O merciful Lord, trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies. We are not worthy so much as to lift up our sinful eyes to the throne of thy glory. But it is thou, O Lord, whose property is always to have mercy. Grant us, therefore, thy grace that we may appear before thee as

creatures in the presence of their Creator, as criminals in the presence of their judge, as sinners in the presence of their gracious Saviour, and also as children before a kind and indulgent father. To thee, O Lord, belongeth mercy, but to us shame and confusion of face. We have sinned this day, O Lord, and deserve to die; but we have an Advocate with the Father, even Jesus Christ the Righteous, whose blood cleanseth from all sin.

O Lord, teach us to pray! Pour out upon us the spirit of grace and supplications! May the Holy Spirit help our infirmities, for we know not what to pray for as we ought. May he make intercession for us with groanings that cannot be uttered! O produce in us, desires after thy favour and image, so strong, that nothing but real experience of thy pardoning mercy and sanctifying grace may satisfy them. We know that if we regard iniquity in our hearts, the Lord will not hear us, make us therefore honest in all our prayers, resolutions, and endeavours to mortify all sin, and to cleanse ourselves from all ungodliness and worldly lusts.

We look up to thee this night, O most mighty Lord, who seest that we have no power of ourselves to help ourselves; beseeching thee to keep us both outwardly in our bodies, and in-

wardly in our souls ; that we may be defended from all adversities which may happen to the body, and from all evil thoughts which may assault and hurt the soul. Thou knowest us to be set in the midst of so many and great dangers, that, by reason of the frailty of our nature, we cannot always stand upright ; grant to us such strength and protection, as may support us in all dangers and carry us through all temptations.

O God, whose mercy to us sheweth thee to be Our Father, which art in heaven, ruling over all creatures, hallowed and praised for ever be thy name, for all thy goodness towards us ; let thy kingdom of righteousness, peace and joy in the Holy Ghost, be established in our hearts ; and let thy kingdom of glory also come ; make us meet for the enjoyment of it, and put an end to all our troubles. Yet not our will, but Thy will be done, whatsoever it be concerning us in earth, whether for prosperity or adversity ; let thy will be the disposer of us as it is of thy holy angels in heaven, who cheerfully submit unto it. Only give us so much as is necessary for our temporal subsistence each day, even our daily bread ; and we therewith will be content ; but let us not labour, only or chiefly, for the bread that perisheth,

but for that which endureth unto everlasting life. Let our chief care be about our souls, and forgive us, miserable sinners, all our trespasses, for Jesus Christ's sake, who died to atone for them. Pardon us, good Lord, as we forgive them that trespass against us, in thought, word, or deed : and when our former offences are forgiven, O keep us from committing more. And lead us not, by thy providence or permission, into the danger of temptation, lest we should fall by it, therefore leave us not, we beseech thee, to our enemy's malice or our own folly ; but deliver us from evil, from the evil one, and from all evil things, of which sin is the chief. These mercies we need ; and though we are most unworthy, yet we ask thee for them in Christ's name. Thou canst help us, for thine is the kingdom and the power. Thou hast freely and frequently relieved poor penitent sinners ; for which men and angels do acknowledge that thine is the praise and the glory. And we also shall, by thy mercy to us, join in this just acknowledgment, which shall be made to thee in heaven and in earth for ever and ever, world without end. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful Father, we have erred and strayed from thy ways like lost sheep. Having left thee, the good Shepherd, we have wandered into a wilderness of sin and misery, where we are in danger of perishing every moment. We have followed too much the devices and desires of our own hearts, which are only evil continually ; for the corrupt fountain which is within our hearts can send forth only filthy waters. We have offended against thy holy laws. Thy laws are holy, just and good ; and it grieves us to the heart, O Lord, when we remember how we have broken them by thought, word, or deed. For we have left undone those things which we ought to have done : and have done those things which we ought not to have done ; and all this is true of every day, and every waking hour of our lives, since we began to reason and to act. We are in our souls full of disease, and ready to perish. But do thou, O Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners. Make us to feel the misery of sin that we may be heartily desirous of thy mercy. Spare us, O Lord, though we deserve to die eternally. For we confess our faults : and those who confess

them, with godly sorrow, thou hast promised to spare. O let not the guilt of our sins thrust us down into everlasting fire prepared for the devil and his angels. But, O Lord, give us true repentance ; that mourning over the sins of our hearts, and lives, we may fly to Christ as the only refuge for a guilty soul.

Thou has mercifully spared us through another night. If thou, hadst not upheld our lives, we should have slept to wake no more. Help us seriously to ask ourselves this morning, whether, if we had died last night, we have any reason from thy word to conclude that we should have died happily. O Lord, make us more earnest than ever we have been to save our souls. Help us to pray this morning with all our hearts. And, oh what an instance of thy mercy, will it be, if we, thy poor sinful creatures, are, by the teaching of thy Spirit, brought to the knowledge of Jesus Christ, and to heaven at last, through faith in his name !

Thou hast safely brought us, O heavenly Father, to the beginning of this day : defend us we beseech thee, in the same, by thy mighty power : and grant that this day we fall into no sin, neither run into any kind of danger ; but that all our doings may be ordered by thy

governance, to do always what is righteous in thy sight, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

If thou, O Lord, wilt condescend to receive us, we do here desire to give up ourselves to thy service. We have found the ways of sin to be the ways of present misery, and know that they lead to everlasting destruction. O, lead us in thy ways, which are ways of pleasantness and peace. We know, indeed, that the gate which leadeth to life is strait, and that the way in which we must walk, if we would be saved, is narrow; and that we shall find few companions to go with us. We see, O Lord, that the generality of mankind are walking in the broad road of sin and unconcern, that leadeth to destruction, both of body and soul, in hell. Lord, pity them, and enable us to pursue a different course: that so, at last, we may obtain an inheritance in thy kingdom, through Jesus Christ our Lord; who, in compassion to our ignorance, has taught us thus to pray: Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

TUESDAY EVENING.

WE are favoured, O Lord, by thy sparing mercy, with another opportunity of meeting together in thy holy presence, and of bending our knees before thy throne of grace. Oh how greatly are we honoured in being permitted to speak to thee, thou King of kings!

Accept, O Lord, our thanks and praise for the mercies of another day. May thy goodness lead us to sincere repentance.

In the contrite heart thou hast promised to dwell. O grant to us such a state of mind, that we may have thee for our friend and portion for ever. If thou art our Shepherd, and we thy sheep, who hear thy voice and follow thee, then we can want nothing. Thou givest us food and raiment, although we have, by our sins, forfeited every morsel of bread we put into our mouths, and the cup of water which quenches our thirst. Give us thy grace, O Lord, that we may know, love, and serve thee; and we shall be content, whatever else thy wise providence allots for us, and be happy for ever.

And now, O Lord, we commend our souls and bodies into thy hands this night. But we dare not close our eyes till we have looked up

to thee to take care of us. We may die without even time to cry for mercy. We therefore commit ourselves to thy merciful protection. We are sinners ; but thou didst provide a sacrifice upon the cross to save sinners, even the chief of them ; O Lord, save us, and grant, that whenever we are called out of time into eternity, we may die in peace with thee, through faith in the Redeemer's precious blood. O cleanse our consciences from the guilt of our sins : and may we lie down on our beds with a well-grounded hope, that, if we never awake again on earth, we shall be received into Abraham's bosom. May our last thoughts be of thee and thy love to our sinful souls ; and when we awake in the morning do thou engage our first moments of recollection in looking to thee our God.

Lighten our spiritual darkness, we beseech thee, O Lord ; and by thy great mercy defend us from all perils and dangers of this night, for the love of thy only Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Every day, heavenly Father, brings with it trials and vexations ; all of which are the effects of our sins. Trouble is the lot of every man, because all have sinned. Glory be to thy name, that thou despisest not the sighing of a

contrite heart, nor the desire of such as are sorrowful. Mercifully assist our prayers that we make before thee, in all our troubles and adversities, whensoever they oppress us; and graciously hear us, that those evils which the craft and subtilty of the devil or man worketh against us, be brought to naught; and by the providence of thy goodness, may they be dispersed, that we, thy servants, being hurt by no persecutions, may evermore give thee thanks through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen. Our Father which art in heaven, &c.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

PROTECTED by thy kind providence, during the past night, it is our privilege to bend the knee in prayer before our God and Saviour. Almighty God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, Maker of all things, Judge of all men; help us to acknowledge and bewail our manifold sins, which we, from time to time, most grievously have committed, by thought, word, and deed, against thy Divine Majesty, provoking most justly thy wrath and indignation against us. May we truly repent, and be heartily sorry for our misdoings: may the remembrance of

them be grievous unto us, the burden of them intolerable. Have mercy upon us, most merciful Father, for thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ's sake; forgive us all that is past, and grant that we may hereafter serve and please thee, in newness of life, to the honour and glory of thy name, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Thou hast commanded, O Lord, those that are weary and heavy laden with sin and suffering, to come unto thee: and hast promised that thou wilt refresh them. Let us experience the refreshing influence of thy grace on our souls this morning. Remember not our offences, which are many and great; neither take thou vengeance on our sins; but spare us good Lord, spare us, whom thou hast redeemed with thy most precious blood, and be not angry with us for ever.

Deliver us this day, we beseech thee, from all sin and wickedness, or we shall fall into it; from our spiritual enemy, and from everlasting death. O Lord God of our salvation, we beseech thee, by the Redeemer's agony and bloody sweat, by his cross and passion, by his precious death and burial, by his glorious resurrection and ascension, and by the coming of the Holy Ghost, to deliver our sinful souls from the curse of thy law, from the snares of Satan,

from the sin that most easily besetteth us, and so, in the end, from everlasting woe.

Let not our minds be this day so taken up with our worldly business as to forget thee. But while we are diligent, may we also be fervent in spirit, serving the Lord. May our souls, often rise to thee in prayer and praise. O that sin, wherever we discover it, may be hateful to us. If we hear thy holy name blasphemed, or see thy holy laws broken, may our souls be grieved; may we mourn over the wickedness of those who thus dare to provoke God; and may we reprove them in the spirit of meekness. May our consciences be enlightened and tender. Whatever we do, may we do it as unto the Lord, and not unto men; striving to approve ourselves to Him who searcheth our hearts. O Lord, graciously help us to love our neighbours as ourselves and to do to all men as we would they should do unto us. May we honour and obey all that are put in authority over us; May we submit ourselves to all our governors, teachers, spiritual pastors, and masters. May we hurt nobody by word or deed. Make us true and just in all our dealings. Grant that we bear no malice or hatred in our hearts. Help us to keep our thoughts fixed on Christ, our tongues from evil; and may

our bodies be the temples of the Holy Ghost. Grant that we may never covet another's goods, but learn to do our duty in that state of life into which it hath pleased God to call us. And, as we know that we are not able to do these things of ourselves, nor to keep thy commandments, without thy special grace, therefore, O Lord, we call upon thee, in the words which thou hast taught us to use ; saying, Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O GOD, our Maker, Preserver, and bountiful benefactor, thou gavest us our being at first, and hast upheld it to this moment. Thou didst create us, and didst give us a reasonable soul, that we might believe in thee, fear and love thee with all our strength. We were sent into this world to worship thee, to give thee thanks, to honour thy holy name and word, and to serve thee truly all the days of our lives. But we have loved other things more than thee, we have feared other things more than offending thee ; and, this very day, we have merciful Redeemer, forgotten thee, the Author of all our bless-

ings, and the Fountain of all our comforts : Lord, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners !

We thank thee, O Lord, that there is a mercy seat, to which we are invited to come, that we may obtain pardon for the past, and grace for the future. O let us not pray as the hypocrites do, repeating with their lips what they do not feel in their hearts ; lest our very prayers should in the last day rise up in judgment against us, and condemn us. While our knees are bended before thee, may we really feel an earnest desire after thy grace, to pardon what is past, and to preserve us from sinning any more. All our most secret thoughts are open to thee, as well as our words and works. Help us seriously to examine ourselves this night. May our sins be brought to remembrance, and may we not suffer them to slip out of our minds, till we have a good hope that they are forgiven, for Christ's sake. Let us not commit ourselves to rest, either with a guilty conscience, or a careless heart. But may we lie down, trusting to the merits of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, and looking to him for the salvation of our souls.

Suffer us not, O Lord, to suppose, that, by bending our knees in prayer, we do all that is required of us. May we be taught that prayer

is designed to bring our souls near to thee, that we may ask in order to receive, and seek that we may find; and that our prayers are of no use any further, than as they are the means of obtaining thy mercy, of rendering us more serious in preparing for death and eternity, and of teaching us to love thee more, and to serve thee better. Therefore, O Lord, bestow upon us the Spirit of prayer; that we may pour out our very hearts before thee as our heavenly Father, through Jesus Christ. As thou hast taught us to meet together, and in our poor and imperfect manner to offer up our supplications and praises day by day, O Lord, grant that we may become more spiritual, more acquainted with the blessed gospel, may love thy ways and ordinances with increasing fervour, hate sin with a more perfect hatred, and become more and more fit for thy eternal kingdom. O make us love to pray unto thee, and to praise thy name! Angels love to sing thy praise; thy servants on earth love to worship thee. O may we be numbered among them, and love thy service also. Grant this for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O LORD, we come before thee in the name of thy dear Son our only Saviour, for whom we bless thee. Accept our gratitude for the safety extended to us, during the past night. Make known to us, we beseech thee, the power and willingness of Christ to save our souls. Enable us to believe that he who gave himself for us, cannot be unwilling to receive, to pardon, and to bless us. And help us, in the belief of this, to come unto him, that we may find rest unto our souls.

O Lord, our sins are more in number than the hairs upon our heads; and every one of them deserves thy wrath. O may we feel the burden of them, and never rest satisfied till thou hast taken them away. We would lay our sinful souls at the foot of our blessed Saviour's cross, beseeching thee to give us a comfortable assurance of thy forgiving love, through the merit of his precious blood.

We desire to remember that the vows of God are upon us, and that we are called by thy name. We pray therefore that we may be enabled to walk worthy of our holy calling; and particularly that we may renounce the devil and all his works, the pomps and vanities of

this wicked world, and all the sinful lusts of the flesh ; that we may believe all the articles of the christian faith ; and that we may keep thy holy will and commandments, and walk in the same all the days of our life. All this we acknowledge to be our reasonable service, and our duty. But, oh, how guilty have we been in forgetting these obligations ? Instead of opposing and resisting the devil and his works, the world and its temptations, the flesh and its lusts, we have, alas ! yielded to their influence. O thou God of all grace, forgive us, and help us every day to seek the knowledge of thy great salvation, and to remember how deserved our damnation will be, if we live and die in the neglect of it. May thy grace enable us to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world ; and may we at last finish our course with joy.

Almighty God, who hast given us grace at this time with one accord to make our common supplications unto thee, and hast promised that when two or three are gathered together in thy name, thou wilt grant their requests ; fulfil now, O Lord, the desires and petitions of thy servants, as may be most expedient for them, granting us in this world, knowledge of thy

truth, and in the world to come, life everlasting.
Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O MOST mighty God, and merciful Father, who hast compassion upon all men, and hatest nothing that thou hast made; who wouldest not the death of a sinner, but rather that he should turn from his sin and be saved: mercifully forgive us our trespasses; receive and comfort us, who are grieved and wearied with the burden of our sins. Thy property is always to have mercy; to thee only it appertaineth to forgive sins. Spare us, therefore, good Lord, spare thy people whom thou hast redeemed; enter not into judgment with thy servants, who are vile earth, and miserable sinners: but turn away thine anger from us who meekly acknowledge our vileness, and truly repent of our faults; and so make haste to help us in this world, that we may ever live with thee in the world to come, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

And while we are thus confessing our vileness, and begging mercy, we entreat thee also

to create in us a clean heart, and renew a right spirit within us. Turn thou us, O good Lord, and so we shall be turned. Enable us to follow the example of our blessed Saviour. Like him, may we be meek and lowly in heart. O may we never cherish anger, wrath, or malice in our hearts: Lord, suppress all these evil tempers. May no bitter words proceed out of our mouth. May our constant endeavour in all things be to please thee, our gracious and merciful Father.

May we think every day, O Lord, of our latter end; and may it be our great object to prepare to meet thee, our God, when thou comest to judgment. Especially when we are committing ourselves to rest at night, may we remember that we must soon lie down in the grave. We should desire, in thy awful presence, O heart-searching God, to inquire to-night whether we have peace with thee, through Jesus Christ our Lord, and whether if our souls should now be called away we should find acceptance at thy bar. Thou hast commanded us to examine ourselves, whether we be in the faith, and whether Jesus Christ be in us or not. O may our conscience, under the direction of thy Spirit, give a true and honest answer to this question. And if any

doubt remain respecting the everlasting welfare of our souls, may we not rest until it is removed.

We bless thee and thank thy holy name for all the mercies of this day. We have, through thy kind Providence, escaped many dangers, of which we were not aware, and from which no care of ours could have saved us: may our hearts feel thankfulness, while our lips express it. It is thou who continuest us in health and in strength; enable us to live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present evil world. Thou feedest and clothest us. O Lord, we adore thy undeserved bounty; and beseech thee to add to these temporal good things the highest bounties of thy grace in Jesus Christ. Feed our souls with the bread of life. Clothe them with the garments of salvation. Give us spiritual health and strength, that we may walk in all thy commandments and ordinances blameless. O Lord, receive our prayers; receive our praises; and, in the hour of death, O heavenly Father, receive our departing souls, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Our Father which art in heaven, &c.

FRIDAY MORNING.

WE have laid down and slept, most gracious Father, and have again risen to acknowledge that it is thou only that makest us to dwell in safety. We are bound, O Lord, by every tie of love and gratitude, daily to bow our sinful bodies and souls before thy Divine Majesty. Oh, how guilty should we be, were we to neglect to worship thee! We should then resemble the devil, that proud rebellious spirit, who is thine enemy and ours. But though thy mercy hath taught us to bend our knees before thee, yet, O Lord, how poor is the manner in which we adore thy name! How little thankfulness we feel for mercies received! How little self-abasement for a sinful nature, and numberless acts of transgression whereby we have offended thee! How faint are our desires to glorify thee this day! O kindle in our hearts more love to thy name, and help us with this new day to begin a new life. O, that we may begin and spend it in the faith and love of thee, our God!

We have lived hitherto in the world to little purpose. We were created, and sent into it to love and serve thee. But, alas, we have loved other objects more than thee: and have

served divers lusts and pleasures instead of thee. We have lived to ourselves more than to thee ; and have sought our happiness in this world instead of seeking it in thee. In these, and a thousand other things, we are indeed guilty. But we trust that thou hast taught us to see our folly, and made us ashamed of it. Here, therefore, O Lord, we offer and present unto thee ourselves, our souls, and bodies, to be a reasonable, holy, and lively sacrifice unto thee, humbly beseeching thee, that we may be filled with thy grace and heavenly blessing. And, although we are unworthy, through our manifold sins, to offer unto thee any sacrifice, yet we beseech thee to accept this our duty and service, not weighing our merits, but pardoning our offences, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Whether we eat or drink ; whether we labour or rest from toil ; whether we walk by the way, or sit in the house ; may we do all things this day to the praise and glory of thy name. However we are engaged, may the love and presence of our gracious Saviour be uppermost in our minds. O suffer us not unthankfully to forget his goodness to us ; but while our hands are employed in our worldly business, may our hearts be mourning for our

sins, meditating on the sacrifice that has been offered for us, and melted into love to Him who died for us, and rose again ! Oh, where should we have been at this moment had not Christ, the Son of God, pitied us in our low estate ! Blessings be on his holy name, for his mercy endureth for ever and ever !

O Almighty and everlasting God, vouchsafe, we beseech thee, to direct, sanctify, and govern both our hearts and bodies in the ways of thy commandments, that through thy most mighty protection, both here and ever, we may be preserved in body and soul, through our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

FRIDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we are to pray, and art ever wont to give more than we can either ask or think, pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy ; forgive us those things whereof our conscience is afraid, and give us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, but for Jesus Christ's sake.

Once more, O Lord, we are permitted to

present ourselves before thee. Let thy merciful ear be open to our prayers: and that we may obtain our petitions, make us to ask such things as shall please thee. We know that we cannot pray aright, but as thy grace influences both our hearts and lips. O give us a hearty desire to pray. May we now seek thy grace, as a condemned malefactor would ask for mercy of his judge? and do thou show that mercy to our sinful souls, for thy great name's sake.

Our days and years, O Lord, pass away with the greatest speed, and every one of them brings us nearer to death and eternity. O that we may feel a lively conviction of the vanity of all worldly pursuits, and the necessity, as well as the advantage, of living by faith on the Son of God, that, whenever death overtakes us, it may find us prepared to leave the world to come to thee. O God, who hast prepared for them that love thee, such good things as surpass man's understanding, pour into our hearts such love towards thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire. O, cause us to lie down this night with our affections set upon things above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God; and, when we

come to die, may we submit with as much satisfaction as we are now about to undress ourselves, to sleep in our beds.

O God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men, grant unto us that we may love the things which thou commandest, and desire that which thou dost promise; and so, among the sundry and manifold changes in this world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys are to be found. O suffer us not to be deceived by lying vanities. Suffer us not to deceive ourselves by the form of religion without the power of it. But grant us thy spirit, to think and to do always such things as are right, that we, who cannot do any thing that is good without thee, may, by thee, be enabled to live according to thy will; not putting our trust in any thing that we do, (for, alas! all our doings are nothing worth,) but in Him who bore our sins, and carried our sorrows. May his blessed name, O Lord, become every day more precious to us. May we always most thankfully receive thine inestimable benefits, and also daily endeavour ourselves to follow the blessed steps of his most holy life.

Almighty God, who has promised to hear the petitions of them that ask in thy Son's

name, we beseech thee mercifully to incline thine ear to us that have now made our prayers and supplications unto thee; and grant that those things which we have faithfully asked, according to thy will, may be effectually obtained, to the relief of our necessity, and the setting forth of thy glory, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O most gracious Father, thou hast invited all who feel their need of thy grace, to come unto thee; and hast promised that those who come thou wilt in no wise cast out. Thou fillest the hungry with good things, while the rich are sent empty away. O that we may feel that hunger and thirst after thy pardoning and sanctifying grace, which may bring us to the enjoyment of it. May we long for thee more than for our daily food; and may we desire nothing so much as to experience thy peace, thy favour, and thy love. We are brought to the beginning of this day, that we may increase in the knowledge of thee, and give thee glory. O

grant that this great end of our life may be fully answered.

Thou, O God, art a holy God; Christ our Saviour is a holy Saviour; thy Spirit is the Holy Spirit; thy heaven is a holy place; thy angels are holy angels; and thy redeemed people are a holy people. O Lord, make us also holy, for without holiness we cannot see thee. May our hearts be separated from sin and united to thee. May we not only abstain from sin, but really hate it, because thou hatest it. May we hate all sin. Whatever is inconsistent with thy will, that may we abhor. May we hate ourselves, because we are sinners and unlike thee. May we make conscience of our words and thoughts, as well as of our actions. May we desire not so much to appear good in the eyes of our fellow-creatures as to be so in thy sight, May we labour to approve ourselves to thee, thou heart-searching God. May thy word be the rule of our whole conduct; and thy glory the end of all our conversation

Keep, we beseech thee, O Lord, both our souls and bodies, this day, with thy perpetual mercy; and because, without thee, we cannot but fall, keep us ever by thy help from all things hurtful, and lead us to all things profitable for our salvation. May thy grace always

go before and follow us, and make us continually to abound in all good works. Increase and multiply upon us thy mercy, that thou, being our ruler and guide, we may so pass through things temporal, that we finally lose not the things which are eternal. We acknowledge that we can do no good thing without thee; O grant us the help of thy grace, that, in keeping thy commandments, we may please thee both in will and deed.

O Lord, as we are dying sinners, we beseech thee, for the sake of thy dear Son, mercifully to hear our prayers, and to spare us who confess our sins unto thee, that we, whose consciences are accused by sin, by thy merciful pardon may be absolved. Thousands of poor sinners, O Lord, who have been guilty and vile like ourselves, have found mercy at thy hands. Thine ear has not become heavy, that it cannot hear, nor is thy hand shortened, that it cannot save. O may we be added to the number of those who shall be monuments of thy grace for evermore.

We have nothing to plead in our own behalf, but that Christ died to save sinners. We lie entirely at thy mercy, and have no hope but in the name of that gracious Lord and Saviour,

who hath taught us to say, Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

SATURDAY EVENING.

AT the close of another day, and at the end of another week, we meet together, O Lord, with thankful hearts, to acknowledge thy goodness in preserving us. Put us in remembrance, O Lord, that days and weeks, as they pass by, bring us nearer to death and eternity. We are now one week nearer to our end than we were at the close of the last. O that it may be found that we are more serious, and in a more awakened state of mind, and thereby become more meet for the inheritance of the saints in light. May we seriously reflect tonight, that man who is born of a woman hath but a short time to live, and is full of misery; that he cometh up, and is cut down like a flower! that he fleeth as it were a shadow, and never continueth in one stay. May each of us remember, that in the midst of life we are in death. Of whom can we seek for succour but of thee, O Lord, who, for our sins, art justly displeased? Yet, O Lord God most holy, O Lord most mighty, O holy and most merciful

Saviour, deliver us not into the bitter pains of eternal death. Thou knowest, Lord, the secrets of our hearts, shut not thy merciful ears to our prayers ; but spare us, Lord, most holy, O God, most mighty, O holy and most merciful Saviour, thou most worthy Judge eternal, suffer us not at our last hour, for any pains of death, to fall from thee.

We are favoured once more, O Lord, with the prospect of the returning sabbath. If we are spared to see it, O that it may prove a day of rest, not only from our worldly calling, but from worldly thoughts and earthly cares. May our minds be prepared, by a solemn sense of thy presence, for spending it to thy glory and our own profit. May we not be suffered to waste the precious hours in our beds ; but may we rise to pray to, and praise thee. May we awake with a devout sense of thy great goodness ; and, as our Redeemer on that day arose from the dead, may we arise in holy desires to the place of his heavenly abode, and join with his servants above in showing forth the glory of his name. O Lord, suffer not the sabbath that is coming to be spent as too many of those which are past have been spent ; but may our souls be thereby prepared for an eternal sabbath, and may we begin to join the employ-

ments and happiness of the future world, even while we remain in this. Heavenly Father, tune our hearts to sing thy praise.

Help us, O Lord, to look forward with pleasure to those precious means of grace, which thy sabbath affords. May we expect, through grace, to derive more real profit and pleasure from them, than we have ever found in this vain world. We are utterly unworthy ever to see the light of another sabbath, ever to hear another sermon, or to be told any more of a dying Saviour's love. We are unworthy to tread thy courts, or to join thy people in those blessed exercises of prayer and praise, for which we were sent into this world. But, O Lord, thy mercy is great, and we are therefore encouraged to hope that thou wilt not take us out of this world till thou hast fitted us for a better.

Once more into thy gracious hands we commit our souls. O Lord, save them; wash them in the precious blood of the cross; sanctify them by the grace of thy Holy Spirit; and, at last, receive them into thy everlasting kingdom, for Jesus Christ's sake. Amen.

Our Father, which art in heaven, &c.

SECOND WEEK.

THE LORD'S DAY MORNING.

O THOU Son of man, who art Lord also of the sabbath, give us in the faith of thee, to keep a sabbath of spiritual rest! May we this day cease from our own works, and enter into thy rest. Son of God, who dost invite weary heavy-laden sinners to come unto thee, enable us to obey thy kind voice. Thou who dost promise to give them rest, fulfil thy word upon us, that we may find rest in thee from all our sins.

O Lord, bring down our high thoughts, vain conceits, proud carnal hopes, and self-righteous confidences, that we may, as poor lost sinners, humbly bow to God the Father's sovereign grace, and cordially submit to be saved by the life, death, blood, and righteousness of his beloved Son. To whom should we miserable sinners go, but unto thee, O Lamb of God? for thou, and thou only, hast the words of eternal life. Thou, and only thou, "takest away

the sin of the world.”—Thou, and thou alone, hast “made peace with God for sinners, by the blood of thy cross.” Lord speak the words of eternal life to our souls,—take away the guilt of our sins,—bring the peace of God into our minds, and shed the pardoning “love of God abroad in our hearts.” Grant that these words of our lips may be the fervent request of our hearts. May the word preached this day be mixed with faith, by the power of the Spirit, that it may sanctify our souls. Lord, enable us to give diligent heed to the truths delivered unto us, lest we let them slip out of our minds. Apply them in the demonstration of the Spirit to our hearts, with power, liveliness, and consolation. May the preaching of Christ crucified be our glory. Let deep convictions be fixed on our minds, of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, the perfect purity of thy righteous law, the piercing eye of thy strict justice, our own deplorable misery and wretchedness, our want of a better righteousness than our own, to justify us in thy sight,—and our constant need of Christ, in all his offices and relations, to save us sinners. Holy Spirit, testify of Jesus to our hearts; show some token upon our souls for good this day. Open our understanding, to understand the scriptures. Give us to hunger

and thirst after Christ, the bread of life.—Let thy powerful influences command awe and reverence of soul before the Lord. Let us find that his banner over us is love; his grace in us is sweet; and his mercy surrounding us on every side, is joyful. Lord, “without thee we can do nothing.” May thy power enable us to worship thee, in spirit and in truth, this day, that prayer may be our delight, and praise the joy of our souls. Lord, stir up our hearts to confess thy goodness, and to praise thee for preserving us from the dangers of the past night and for giving us the light of another sabbath. O may thy mercies excite gratitude and thankfulness of heart! Sweeten every temporal blessing with a sense of covenant grace and love in Christ. Grant that we may enjoy all in God, from God, and to God, in Christ.

Lord Christ, make thy presence known in the assemblies of thy people this day and bless all thy faithful ministers. While they are preaching pour out thy Holy Spirit. Cause thy word to run and be glorified in the conviction and conversion of sinners, and in the edification and comfort of thy saints. Quicken the dead in sin; enliven the hearts and graces of thy people. Grant us to know the joyful sound

of thy gospel ; to hear the voice of Jesus ; and to taste that thou art gracious to sinners : that we may shout thy salvation, and say, " Let thy name, O Lord, be praised from the rising up of the sun to the going down of the same." Water our souls by the word of thy grace, and with the unction of thy Spirit. Graft in our hearts the love of thy name : increase in us true religion : nourish us with all goodness : and of thy great mercy keep us in the same, by thy mighty power, through faith, unto everlasting salvation. Lord, make us strong in the grace which is in Jesus Christ ; strong to resist sin, Satan, and unbelief ; strong to fight the good fight of faith, and to run with patience our heavenly race, that so we may obtain the crown of righteousness, life, and glory, as thy free gift, through rich grace. Bless, in soul and body, all who are near and dear to us. Forgive all who are enemies against us. Lord, accept us in thy beloved Son ; out of his fulness supply all our need, that in faith and in truth we may joyfully call upon thee, as taught by our dear Saviour. " Our Father, which art in heaven," &c.

THE LORD'S DAY EVENING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, enable us to adore thee, as the great Prophet of thy church. Cause our hearts to receive thy Divine teaching. Thou hast bid us say, "After we have done all, we are unprofitable servants." Give us the feeling conviction of this humbling truth, that we may confess it from the ground of our hearts. And yet, dear Lord, suffer not the sense of our unprofitableness ever to discourage us from drawing nigh to thy holy, just, and righteous Father, by thee: for, glory be unto thee, thou art a Priest to atone for sin, and an Advocate to plead for poor sinners. O may our souls bless thy precious name, that thou hast not left sinners to procure acceptance with God by any works of their own, but dost give them boldness to come into the presence of a holy God, by thy precious blood; and hast consecrated a new and living way of access to God, through the veil of thy flesh. Grant us, through thee, to have free access to the Father, by the grace of thy Spirit. O God, the Father of heaven, view us in the Son of thy love. Accept and bless us with all spiritual blessings in him. In and by him, let us find heaven open to our prayers, and see a pardoning God smil-

ing upon our persons. Lord, help our unbelief; Lord, increase our faith in the word of thy grace, and in the promises of thy mercy in Christ, to hopeless, helpless, and miserable sinners. Grant, Lord, that we may ever see that, in ourselves, we are all such; and yet behold the encouragement we have in thy gracious word, to come unto thee for hope, help, and mercy: O fix this truth deep in our hearts,—that without this thy unspeakable gift, we must all have inevitably perished; but, believing in Christ, we shall most certainly be saved. Grant us now to experience this salvation in our souls, being passed from death unto life, in dying unto sin and rising again unto righteousness, in being delivered from the condemnation of thy law, and possessing justification unto life. Bless every means of grace we have attended to this day, to the quickening in us the hope of glory. Hath the gospel of thy salvation been preached to our ears? Grant that it may take deep root in our hearts, so as to make Christ precious to our souls, sin exceedingly sinful, and the ways of holiness most delightful. Forbid that we should be careless or forgetful hearers of thy word. Sanctify our memories, to retain the truth as it is in Jesus, our hearts to believe in it, our spirits to love it, and our souls

to glory in it,—that it may spread its Divine savour and influence over the whole of our life, walk, and conversation. Make the return of every sabbath on earth to fit us more and more for that rest which remaineth for thy people in glory. May the conclusion of every sabbath be to thy honour and glory, and to our profit, peace, and comfort. Pardon the iniquity of our holy things. In all we do, we come short of our duty, and of thy glory. Cause us ever to tremble to be found in ourselves, or to trust in anything we can do to save ourselves.

O thou who searcheth all hearts, enable us to examine ourselves, and to prove our own selves, that we may know ourselves: Suffer none of us to sleep in an awful state of sin, but awaken in us a deep concern to know whether we are in Christ, and to enjoy some precious evidence that Christ is in us, and that we are interested in the salvation of the Son of God. Holy Spirit, make us to know ourselves, even as we are known by thee.

O Father of all mercies, and God of all our comforts, accept the praises of our lips, for all thy blessings this day bestowed upon us. Pardon all our sins. Receive us to the arms of thy mercy to-night. Preserve us from all evil, and bless us with every good. Visit the sons

of sorrow and daughters of affliction. Be a very present help to thy people in all their trouble. Compass them about with songs of deliverance. Bless all we love, and all who love us. Pity those that hate us. Lord, help us to love, pray for, and forgive them. Grant that we may live in love to thee, and all mankind. May we lie down in peace with God, through Christ, and in peace with all men. Now, to the ever-glorious Trinity in one God-head, be all the honour and glory, of all we have and are, and of all we hope for through our only Advocate, Jesus Christ, Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

LORD God Almighty, who art a Father to bless, a Redeemer to save, and a Spirit to sanctify miserable sinners ; look down in mercy upon us this morning, and enable us to look up to thee in faith and in hope. Glory and praise be unto thee, O Lord, for the light of another day, and for all thy mercies the night past. Affect our minds with a deep sense of our demerits, and of thy long-suffering goodness. Enable us to lift up our hearts unto thee, as a God hearing prayer, and pardoning sinners,

who come unto thee in the name of thy beloved Son. O Son of God, who wast born to save, to justify, and to redeem sinners, have mercy on us. Thou who art exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance and remission of sin, grant us repentance unto life, and forgiveness of our sins. Sin hath made us miserable. Lord, thy love only can make us happy. Sin has polluted us; thy blood only can cleanse us. Sin has brought the curse of the law upon us. O thou who wast made a curse for us, let thy righteousness free us from all condemnation.

Lord, teach us to know ourselves. Humble us in our own sight. Save us from despair. Suffer us not to doubt of thy will and power to save us to the very utmost, if we come unto thee. Never suffer unbelief to work in us, and to prevail over us, so as to keep us from coming to thee. Give us steadily to believe thy glorious truths, thy rich grace, thy precious love, so as to experience thy everlasting salvation, in all its comfort and blessedness. Banish those doubts and fears which keep our hearts from seeking, loving, and glorifying thee. Pardon our unbelief. Give us more grace. If we have precious faith, Lord increase it. Thy grace alone is sufficient for

us. Perfect thy strength in our weakness. Make us sensible that we live in a wicked, and an ensnaring world, that the love of it is contrary to the love of God,—“that the friendship of it is enmity against God,” and that, “if any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.” Deliver us from this present evil world; save us from all the evil that is in the world. Let thy love reign in our hearts, and put the world under our feet. So perfect us in thy love, and by thy love, that our souls may rise above the love of vain and earthly objects, which oppose thy glory and prevent our enjoying sweet “fellowship with God the Father and his Son Jesus Christ.” New create us, in him, unto all good works, that we may walk in them to thy honour and glory. Enable us to resist Satan, to strive against sin, and study to please thee in all things, through the holy faith and purifying hope of thy gospel.

Bless us, Lord, with thy presence, this day. Grant that we may begin it in thy strength, and end it to thy glory. In our different states and stations of life, may thy grace enable us to do our duty with cheerfulness and fidelity. Lord, reign in our hearts by thy love, and subdue every evil temper and unruly passion. Grant that we may walk in thy light and truth, and

let our light so shine before men, that they, seeing our good works, may glorify thee. Have mercy upon all men. Bless those whom thou hast set over us. Bless the nation where we live. Forgive our crying sins. Avert deserved judgments. Pour upon us undeserved mercies. Let thy gospel continue with us in its purity. Bless all thy ministers who preach it. Preserve, sanctify, and comfort all thy faithful people. Remember, in grace, and mercy, all that are near and dear to us. Grant them to know thy love, rejoice in thy salvation, and live to thy glory. In mercy hear our prayers. Accept us in thy beloved Son. O Lord, for his sake, do for us abundantly more than we are able to ask, or worthy to expect, for the glory of thy name. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

O THOU high and lofty One, who inhabitest eternity, whose name is holy, who art of purer eyes than to behold iniquity,—glory be to thee, that thou dost not spurn sinners from thy presence, but invitest them to draw nigh unto thee: for thou canst be just, and yet the justifier of him who believeth in Jesus. Bless the Lord,

O our souls, and all that is within us praise his holy name : for thou hast not left us in doubtful suspense to ask, how shall we come before the Lord ; or how shall we be accepted of the Most High God. Christ is this way. He hath assured us, no man cometh unto the Father but by him. Let us find mercy to pardon our sins ; and grace to sanctify, comfort and refresh our souls. May both flow to us through Jesus the Son of thy love, by the power of the Holy Spirit.

We thank thee that is our special mercy to live where the light of the gospel shines, and where the joyful sound of salvation by Christ is proclaimed. May our souls see the light of truth, hear the joyful sound of salvation, love it, rejoice in it, and bless and praise thee for it. Lord, forbid that ever we should lightly regard thy peculiar mercy, or neglect thy glorious salvation. Thou, Lord, who, in the days of thy flesh, didst open thy disciples' understandings to understand the scriptures, mercifully open ours also. Thou who didst cause their hearts to burn within them, let us feel the same power from thee. Make us joyfully to know the things which belong to our peace. Teach us to know, that Christ, of God, is made unto us wisdom, righteousness, sanctification, and

redemption. Lord thy words are spirit and life. Grant us to experience their power and spirituality. Give us to love thy word, and rejoice at it, as those who find great spoil. Give us grace to search the scriptures, which testify of thee, O Lord. O Divine Spirit, who hast caused all holy scripture to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy word, we may embrace by faith, and ever hold fast, in love, the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our dear Saviour Jesus Christ.

Enable us this night to come unto thee as our only Saviour, our only hope, the Lord our righteousness. We are continually surrounded with enemies, dangers, and temptations. Preserve and keep us by thy watchful eye and Almighty grace. Subdue all within, that is contrary to thy holy will. Surround us this night by thy all-preserving goodness. We have no might to stand, or power of our own to keep ourselves. O be thou our shield and our defence from the face of every enemy. Lord, thou hast told us, "but one thing is needful;" O may we believe thee, and choose that good part of sitting at thy blessed feet,

and hearing thy gracious words, that we may daily learn of thee the greatness of thy love to us, miserable sinners, and the fulness, freeness, and perfection of thy salvation for us ; so shall we trust thee more, love thee better, and serve thee with greater devotion of heart and life. Grant that this may be our constant study, to be thy devoted and faithful servants to our lives' end : for in thee is all joy and peace, and in thy service all comfort and happiness. Thus let us find it, that we may say, thy service, O God, is perfect freedom ; and experience that in thy presence there is fulness of joy ; that we may at last enjoy those pleasures which are at thy right hand for evermore. For all the blessings and comforts of the day past, give us grace to be thankful. Lord, keep us from all dangers and evils this night. Bless us in lying down to rest. May our weary bodies be refreshed, and our immortal souls kept unto the day of Christ. In him may we be found in life, in death, and in the awful day of judgment, that we may joyfully sing, " Salvation to God who sitteth upon the throne, and unto the Lamb, for ever and ever." Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

LORD of all grace, teach us how to pray ; open our lips, that our mouths may show forth thy praise. Holy Spirit, help our infirmities. Pour upon us the grace of prayer and the spirit of supplication, that we may be engaged this morning in worshipping, praising and adoring the Lord of our life, the Father of our mercies, and the God of our salvation, in Christ Jesus. As the light of the morning has chased away the darkness of the night, so, O Son of Righteousness ! arise upon our souls, and dispel the darkness of ignorance and unbelief that we may walk as the children of light, and of the day. Thou hast said, "He who followeth me, shall not walk in darkness ; but shall have the light of life." "Draw us, and we shall run after thee." Thou dost command us, "Look unto me, and be ye saved." Give us faith to believe thee, and power to obey thee, that we may find salvation in thee. We have destroyed ourselves : Lord, make us know and feel it, that we may glory of, rejoice in, and praise thee for that precious declaration. "In Me is thine help found." Grant that the belief of this may lead us out of our helpless selves, and encourage us to come unto thee for all hope

and help. When sin, temptations, lusts, evil tempers rise, and we are in danger of being overcome of evil, O Lord stand by to support and keep us, looking unto thee for victory. May the sound of that word pierce our very hearts, "If ye live after the flesh, ye shall die; but if ye through the Spirit, do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Holy Spirit, teach us that this is to be our work to-day, and every day we live. The power is thine; O bestow it upon us, that we may live holy, walk comfortably and enjoy thy heavenly peace and love. Whatever work we are called to engage in this day, may we remember to serve the Lord Christ in it, to aim at his glory in all we do, and do nothing contrary to his will; looking for his grace to be with us, his power to bless us, and his love to make our souls happy.

May we "who name the name of Christ, depart from all iniquity." O, for thy name's sake forbid that we should rest barely on the name, without experiencing the inward life, grace, and power of the Spirit of Christ upon our souls: for thou hast assured us, "if any have not the Spirit of Christ, he is none of his." Let thy grace be manifest in us this day, by our lives and conversation. Make us

watchful over ourselves,—watchful against all evil, and watchful unto prayer. O God, remind us that thine eyes are ever upon us. Let us continually have the eyes of our minds upon thy truths, thy promises, and thy threatenings, ever remembering the Lord is at hand. O may we use this world as not abusing it. May we not be “slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord.” Lord make us know that we are not our own, but that we are bought with the price of thy precious blood. Make us thy peculiar people, zealous of good works. Bless the nation where we live. O Lord, send forth a spirit of reformation among us. Turn us from our crying sins, lest they bring down thy threatened judgments upon us. May all who profess to know thy name, know the comfort of trusting in thee. Bless our dear relatives, in providence and in grace, in their bodies and in their souls. O may they know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent. Lord, for thine infinite mercy’s sake in Christ, cause us to rise from our knees with humble, grateful, obedient hearts, that under the influence of thy special grace, we may spend this day in thy service and to thy glory, through Jesus thy beloved Son, our precious Saviour. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty give us to believe that, as surely as we are now on our knees before thee, we must all soon stand before thy judgment-seat. Grant that the thoughts of that tremendous day and the solemn event that awaits each of us, may be deeply impressed upon our souls, that we may flee from the wrath to come, to lay hold of the sceptre of thy mercy in Christ Jesus, and escape the curse of thy wrath, in the day of judgment. Glory be to thee, O Lord, that thou hast told us, "Behold, now is the accepted time; behold now is the day of salvation." Lord, make this an accepted time to us; may this be a day of salvation, in which our souls may be succoured, saved and comforted by thee. Give us grace to draw nigh unto thee, not only with our lips, but in heart-affection also; and do thou draw nigh to us, and bless us. Visit us with a sense of thy peace, the comforts of thy love, and the joys of thy salvation. O Lord, thou Friend of sinners, thou Saviour of the hopeless, the wretched, and the miserable, save us from our sloth, carelessness and stupidity of soul. Awaken in us a quick and feeling sense of our manifold sins, and our innu-

merable wants, that we may come this night to thy blood for pardon, and to thy grace for supply. O that in and under a sight and sense of all our wretchedness, that word may bring hope and relief to our minds, "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto himself, not imputing their trespasses unto them." Lord, give us to know thy reconciling love, and pardoning grace in Christ, that we may be reconciled to thee, and love thee with all our hearts and minds and serve thee with all our strength. We are tied with the chain of our sins, and bound by the fetters of unbelief. O Holy Spirit, set our souls at liberty. Son of God, make us free, and we shall be free indeed: free to love God; free to worship him, in spirit and in truth; free to rejoice in thee, while we have no confidence in the flesh; free to walk in all the ordinances of the Lord blameless; and free to rejoice in hope of the glory of God. O may our souls pant after this glorious freedom, and never, never rest till we enjoy the liberty wherewith Christ makes sinners free.

Glory and praise be unto thee, for all the mercies and comforts this day bestowed on us. Lord, inspire our souls with gratitude for them and with a deep sense of our utter unworthiness of the least of them; for, we are sinners. May

the sense of this heighten thy goodness to us, and exalt thy mercies bestowed on us. Thou, Lord, doest good to the wretched, bestowest mercy upon the miserable, and multiplieth thy favours upon the unworthy; or else it had been our doom to want the blessings and comforts of this life, and to be destitute of the least hope of that life, which is to come. Lord, keep us from every danger, protect us from all evil, and surround us by thy power, that no harm happen to us. O, grant undisturbed repose to our bodies, and rest and peace to our souls. Have mercy upon all men. Bless all who are of the household of faith. May all in authority over us have wisdom to act for the nation's good, and hearts devoted to thy glory. Blessed be thy name for a few who are good as well as great. Lord, keep them faithful to thee and thy cause. Relieve and comfort all who are in distress. Forasmuch as we know neither the day nor the hour when the Son of man cometh to judgment, O may we be found watching, praying and working the things which are good and well-pleasing in thy sight, remembering the night cometh when no man can work. Lord make us fruitful in every good word and work. Stir us up

to give all due dilligence to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling, ever knowing that it is thou who workest in us both to will and to do of thy good pleasure. Lord, work in us, and we shall work for thy honour and glory. Father of all mercies, to thee we look. For Christ's sake, look upon us, accept, pardon, and bless us now and evermore, in life and in death, in time and to eternity. O may we be of that happy number who shall surround thy throne in glory, and ascribe salvation to God and the Lamb, for ever and ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

O LORD Jesus Christ, "who hast ascended up on high, led captivity captive, and received gifts for men;" pour down the gifts and graces of thy Spirit upon us, that we may worship and adore thee as our Saviour, and thy Father as our Father. We are the preserved of thy power from day to day. We are raised, by thy mercy, from our beds of rest, to enjoy the light of another morning. We are continued in being by thy long-suffering goodness. Thou loadest us with thy benefits. Lord, forbid that we should be unmindful of thy mercies, or un-

thankful for thy goodness. As thy creatures, we are bound to praise thee. O make us new creatures in Christ, that we may love thee, delight our souls in thee, and devote ourselves to thee. O that we may put on Christ Jesus this morning, that we may not make provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof. May we receive every grace and blessing out of the fulness of Christ. O thou great Searcher of hearts, thou seest whether these glorious blessings are, or are not, the earnest desire of our souls. If any one of us before thee is thoughtless, careless, and indifferent about them, O pity that soul. Send forth thy light and thy truth into that heart, that we may all, with united voice, fervently cry, "Lord, save us, or we perish." Lord, pity us, the inhabitants of a body of sin and death. Save us from "the corruptions that are in the world through lusts." "Direct our hearts into the love of Christ." Guide our feet to walk in Christ, who is the way, the truth, and the life. Give us peace in him, peace from him, and may his peace controul all our turbulent passions, and subdue all our disorderly affections. Lord, thou knowest "it is not in man who walketh, to direct his steps." Our ways are sin, folly, and death. "Thy ways are ways of pleasantness, and all

thy paths are peace." Lord be our Guide and our Preserver this day. Bless us with upright hearts to thee, and sincerity before thee. Whatever we meet with this day, in the course of thy providence, Lord, overrule all by the power of thy grace, that all things may work together for our good and thy glory. Give us to experience the power of that truth, "The just shall live by faith." O may we "believe, to the saving of our souls." May we find the power of a holy faith, working by the love of an incarnate God, to all holiness and obedience,—to the love of thee, and all men, and to the glory of thy blessed name. O Lord, bless all men: especially those of the household of faith. Remember all our dear relations and friends. O make them friends of Jesus, and children of God. Bless and forgive our enemies; and pardon us in whatever we have done amiss to them. Grant that we may seek peace and pursue it; and if it be possible, as much as in us lies, may we live peaceably with all men. Lord, grant that the gospel of thy peace may run and be glorified, in the hearts, and by the lives of all its professors. Bless and prosper the labours of all faithful ministers of it. Make them lively in their own souls, and fill them with zeal in their work. Lord, make us, in our

day and generation, useful and profitable. May we set out afresh to serve God, and to follow Christ. Hear us, O most merciful Father, and cause us to rise from our knees, refreshed with thy love, and animated by thy grace, to devote ourselves to thy glory this day, through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom with thee, O Father, and thee, O Holy Spirit, be all the glory of all that we have, and all that we hope for, now and for ever. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

O LORD the Holy Ghost, thou blessed Inspirer of all that is good in the hearts of sinners, graciously enlighten our minds to see the preciousness of Christ, and powerfully convert our hearts from sin and vanity to him, for righteousness, peace, and holiness.—Glory be to God that there is “an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous, and he is the propitiation for our sins.” O may we firmly believe this in our hearts; and, in the faith of this, present our souls this night before our Father’s throne of grace, for access and acceptance. Heavenly Father, grant us to come unto thee with the faith, fear, and love of thy

dear children in our hearts, and do thou pour down the comforts of thy fatherly love upon us. Under a sense of the manifold mercies of this day, give us grace to approach thee with thankful hearts. May our mercies be heightened by a sense of our unworthiness of them, and as bestowed by thee, against whom we have all sinned, so as to cause us to sink into deep self abasement, and cry out, with humble gratitude, "Lord, what is man, that thou art mindful of him! What are we, the fallen children of an apostate parent, that thou shouldst daily visit us in mercy, and pour down thy manifold blessings upon us?" Great as thy goodness is, abundant as thy mercies are, yet, O Lord, thy grace to our immortal souls infinitely exceeds all: for thou hast not spared thine only beloved Son, but hast freely given him up for us all. Open our eyes to see the wonders of this love. Cause our hearts to meditate upon it; and grant that each of us may know, by blessed experience, "the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Ghost." Lord, there is no soul before thee so dead in sin but thou canst quicken; no eye so blind but thou canst open; no ear so deaf but thou canst cause to hear thy voice. O give us to plead

in faith thy precious promises, and in longing hope to look up to thee to fulfil them unto us. Lord, thou hast said, "Where two or three are met together in thy name, there am I in the midst of them." Let us now find thy presence in the power of thy Spirit, speaking peace to our consciences, love to our hearts, and joy to our souls. We are miserable sinners; Lord, "save us, and call us, according to thine own purpose and grace in Christ Jesus, that we may be a people formed for thy glory, who shall shew forth thy praise." We are fallen creatures. Lord, raise us from our fall. Restore us to thy favour. Restamp thine image upon our souls, that we may bear the image of the second Adam,—the Lord from heaven. We know not but this night our souls may be required of us. O help us to "examine ourselves, whether Christ Jesus be in us or not;" for, if Christ be not in us, we are yet in our sins, and disapproved of thee. O cause each of us to tremble to be found out of Christ, living in our sins, dying in our sins, and rising to judgment in our sins: for to all such, thou, O God, "art a consuming fire." Lord, have mercy upon all men. Bless all thy people out of the fulness of Christ. Visit and comfort the sons and daughters of sorrow and affliction;

support them under all their trials, strengthen them under their weaknesses, and give them a happy issue out of all their distresses. Let thy gospel have free course, run, and be glorified, to the conversion of sinners, and to the building up thy people in their most holy faith. Bless the souls, and prosper the labours of all thy faithful ministers. Keep their souls alive to thee, and in sweet fellowship with thee. May all thy people experience the same rich grace. O may our rulers live before thee, and may this nation be blessed by thee. Lord, continue thy gospel among us, in its power, light, and glory. May our souls be thereby edified and built up in the love of God the Father, in the grace of God the Son, and in the comforts of God the Holy Ghost, to the everlasting honour and praise of the blessed Trinity. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

O most holy and righteous Lord, forbid that we should come into thy presence trusting in our own righteousness, but in thy manifold and great mercies, manifested in Christ Jesus to miserable sinners. We are not worthy so much as to gather up the crumbs under thy table ;

but thou art the same Lord, whose property is always to have mercy on every penitent and believing soul, through the Son of thy love. Grant us therefore, gracious Lord, to come before thee in humility, and to call upon thee in faith, that we may be accepted in thy beloved Son, and heard and answered for his sake. Thou, O God, has assured us, "he that offereth thee praise, honoureth thee." O may we thus honour thee this morning! Thou art worthy of all the praise, and honour, and glory of all that we are, all that we enjoy, and all that we hope for. Every good and perfect gift cometh down from thee. Lord, accept the praises of our lips. Enable us to give the praises of our hearts, and to devote our lives to thy glory and service this day. May we begin this day in thy fear, live under an abiding sense of thy presence all the day, and conclude it in thy service,—doing and suffering thy will, O God, from the heart. Thou, Lord, in providence, hast placed us in different states and stations in life; we have each of us a work given us to do, and different duties to discharge. We all need thy grace, without which we are insufficient of ourselves to please thee. Let thy grace be sufficient for us, to enable us to walk

before thee in love, and to serve and please thee in newness of life.

Lord, convince each of us, that without faith it is impossible to please thee. Make each of us partakers of precious faith, that we may walk by faith, in holy communion with thee, finding the power of that faith which works by thy love, and draws out our hearts and affections in love to thee, O Saviour of sinners.—Lord, so convince each of us of sin, that we may feel the burden of it, so as to come to thee for ease of mind, peace of conscience, and rest of soul. Forbid that any of us should live in carnal security, and walk in false peace through the ignorance of our hearts, and the blindness of sin. O cause the light of truth to shine, and the glory of grace to arise upon our souls, that we may know ourselves even as we are known by thee; and know thee, the only true God, in Jesus Christ, as thou hast revealed thyself in the word of truth. We are assured “the natural man can neither discern nor know the things of the Spirit; they are foolishness to him.” Gracious God, leave us not in our deplorable state by nature. Make us spiritual, that we may approve the things which are spiritual, and worship thee in spirit and in truth. Suffer us

not to live by sense, but enable us to walk by faith. Give us thy Spirit, that we may know the things which are freely given us of God. Thou hast prepared for them that love thee, such good things as the carnal eye hath not seen, the sensual ear hath not heard, neither hath it entered into the unregenerate heart to conceive. Give us to see thee by the eye of faith, to hear thy voice in the word of truth, and conceive in our hearts thy love, thy matchless love, O God. As sinners, we have all forfeited every blessing,—are exposed to endless torment, and deserve eternal wrath. But let us find every curse averted from us, and every blessing restored to us, by thy holy life and agonizing death, thy atoning blood, and justifying righteousness, O, thou Lamb of God ! Thou art the only Saviour of sinners. Spirit of God, grant that Christ may be our only plea, and our precious Saviour. May mercy and grace flow to us out of his fullness. Merciful High Priest send down the blessing and comfort of thy intercession upon us.—Thou, who didst suffer, the just for the unjust, bring us nigh to God, in the experience of our souls, that we may live as in his presence, and walk in the light of thy countenance. Let heavenly grace, peace and love descend upon us, sub-

duing every earthly and sensual temper in us, and sanctifying us in spirit, soul and body. Grant that it may manifest to us, that we are beloved of God the Father, redeemed of God the Son, by being sanctified by God the Holy Spirit. May all our dear relations be partakers of the rich mercies of God in Christ Jesus. May all our friends be blessed, and all our enemies be forgiven by thee, O Lord. Crown all the labours of thy ministers with abundant success. Give to all thy people increase of grace, to hear meekly thy word, to receive it with pure affection, and to bring forth the fruits of the Spirit.—Grant, thou blessed Immanuel, that the savour of thy precious name may be spread, and thy glorious salvation known more and more in the hearts of poor perishing sinners. Be thou all our salvation, and all our desire, that each of us may say in faith and truth, “I will praise thee, O Lord; though thou wast angry with me; yet thine anger is turned away, and thou dost comfort me.” O that “with joy we may this day draw water out of the wells of salvation,” to the glory of the holy and ever-blessed Trinity. Thou great Captain of our salvation, who hast fought all our battles, and gained a complete victory over the world, the flesh, and the devil,

for us, O subdue all our and thine enemies in us. Make us strong in thee, and in the power of thy might, to strive against sin, resist Satan, and overcome the world. Let us never lay down our arms but with our life. Arm us this day with the shield of faith, the helmet of salvation, the sword of the Spirit, and the grace of prayer. Lord, enable us to fight the good fight of faith, ever to embrace and hold fast the blessed hope of eternal life that thou hast given us in the scriptures, and that is possessed in the heart, through faith in Jesus Christ; to whom with the Father and Holy Ghost be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

O LORD, who art a sun and a shield, enlighten and defend us. Grace and glory are thy free gifts; O bestow them upon us. Cause us to walk uprightly before thee. Son of God, who hast in these last days come and spoken unto us in thy word, speak to our hearts by the power of thy Spirit. Speak light and conviction into our souls. Forbid that we should love darkness rather than light, because our deeds are evil. Thou art the

light of the world, and the life of men. May we come unto thee, and make it manifest that the true light hath shined in our hearts, and that we are the children of the light and of the day. Suffer us not to walk in the darkness of sin, ignorance and error. Deliver us from an evil heart of unbelief, which departs from thee the living God, bids defiance to thy awful threatenings, sets at naught thy precious promises; is regardless of the concerns of our immortal souls, and causes sinners to live after the course of this present evil world, till death unthought of, judgment unprepared for, and destruction unexpected, overtake them. O may we know thy great salvation, feel our want of it, and be most deeply concerned to obtain the knowledge of our interest in the love and the grace of the Lamb of God. Thou, and only thou, takest away the sin of the world. O Saviour, take away our sins, clothe our naked souls with thy righteousness, sanctify our polluted souls by thy Spirit, and unite our hearts to love thy precious name, and to rejoice in thy everlasting salvation.

Gracious Lord, thy word assures us "there is no condemnation to them who are in Christ Jesus; that all who believe in thee are justified from all things; that they are passed from

death unto life." O, for thy mercy's sake, bring our souls into this happy state. Grant that we may experience the joys of thy people, and the felicity of thy chosen. Quicken our souls to press forward, and to give all diligence to obtain those blessings which thou hast promised to them who seek thee. As the shadows of the evening are come upon us,—as the darkness of the night is spreading over us, so make us remember that the night of death will soon succeed the day of life, and that our sun will soon set. Lord Jesus, give us such hunger and thirst of soul after thee, that we may not rest till we know that thou art our resurrection and our life, that we may meet death with composure, yea, with joy, as a messenger of peace.

Dear Lord, thou hast encouraged poor sinners to pray for the Holy Spirit; and hast assured us, thy Father will give the Holy Spirit to them who ask him: O that we may now ask in the faith of thy word, nothing doubting. Lord, hear us. Send down the grace and blessing of thy Spirit upon us, that we may be a people formed for thy glory, that by our walk and conversation we may show that we have been with Jesus,—are partakers of the Divine nature,—that all our unruly

lusts and unholy tempers are thereby mortified and subdued,—and that we may discharge every social, moral and relative duty, agreeably to thy holy word. Bless and keep us through the evils and dangers of this night. Preserve us from devouring flames, and from the sons of violence. Lord, prepare us by rest for the duties of another day. For thy infinite mercy's sake in Christ Jesus, fit us for death, prepare us for judgment, and make us meet to be partakers of the heavenly inheritance with thy saints in glory. Bless our rulers. Bless all men. Keep and comfort thy people. Make all who are dear to us of that happy number. Reward our benefactors. Change the hearts of, and forgive all our enemies. Now Lord, into thy hands we would commit our bodies, souls and spirits. Grant us the unspeakable mercy to know that thou hast redeemed us, that our souls may love thee, and rejoice in thee as our Saviour, and say of thee, “Whom have we in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth we desire besides thee.” In this faith may we comfortably live, joyfully die, and be the happy partakers of the end of our faith,—the everlasting salvation of our souls in thy kingdom of bliss and glory. Lamb of God hear us. Son of God have mercy upon us. O sprinkle

our hearts from a guilty conscience. Possess them with a happy sense of thy pardon, love and peace, that we may sleep in the Lord this night, and awake in the Lord, to behold another day. But, if thou shouldst this night require our souls, and take away our life, grant that we may die in the Lord, and be found in Christ Jesus,—pardoned by his blood, justified in his righteousness, sanctified through his Spirit, and made meet to be partakers of the heavenly inheritance with the saints in glory. These mercies we ask in thy name and for thy sake, O Christ, who art ever worthy, with the Father and the Spirit, to receive equal honour and endless praise. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

O ALMIGHTY God, be thou exalted, in thine own strength, and let this be the day of thy power, that we may exalt thee, and bring free-will offerings of holy worship unto thee. O Lord Christ, who didst humble thyself to death, even unto the death of the cross, humble us that we may exalt thee. “God forbid that we should glory, save in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ.” May our souls bless thee for

that new and living way which thou hast consecrated through the veil of thy flesh, for us miserable sinners to draw nigh unto God. Grant Lord, that we may now find free access, full acceptance, and every needful blessings from thee. O merciful High Priest of our profession have compassion upon us. We are naturally ignorant, and out of the way of life and salvation; cause us to return to thee, the great Shepherd and Bishop of souls. Bring us, blind sinners, by the way we know not; make darkness light before us, and crooked things straight unto us, and never leave nor forsake us, O Lord.

Where thou hast begun a work of grace upon any of us, carry it on with thy power, and perfect it to thy glory. Let us all experience that thou dost work in us both to will and to do of thine own good pleasure. While many are saying, "Who will show us any good?" "Lord, lift thou up the light of thy countenance upon us, and give us peace." Lord be gracious to us and bless and keep us this day. O God, the Father of heaven, who hast declared of Christ, "This is my beloved Son," believe on, and come to him; grant us, in the power of the Spirit, to obey thee. O may each of us say of thy beloved Son, He is my beloved Saviour, my righteousness, peace, and

joy. O Saviour, grant that our souls may be found in thee; and, by thy grace, may we have our conversation in this world. Lord, while infidelity, iniquity, and enmity work against thee, in the hearts of the children of men, let thy grace subdue all these in us.—When sin allures, Satan tempts, and corruptions rage, “Lord, keep us, or we fall.” Save us this day from the many evils within us, and the temptations around us. Enable us to do our duty in the station of life wherein thou hast placed us, as servants of the most high God; ever considering ourselves in thy presence, and desiring in all things thy glory. In obedience to thy command we pray for all men; for the rulers thou hast given us, and for all in authority over us, that we may lead quiet lives, in all godliness and honesty. Bless all our dear relatives with the knowledge of themselves, of Christ, and with precious faith in his blessed name. Lord, continue the light of thy glorious gospel to us. Bless all thy ministers who preach it. Add to their number, and increase their usefulness, to the awakening the dead in sin, comforting the mourners in Zion, giving rest to burdened souls, and peace to distressed consciences. Accept our praises for all thy mercies, temporal and spiritual, known and

unknown, vouchsafed unto us. O give us thankful hearts. Now, Lord, give us thy peace which passeth all knowledge, that we may rejoice in thee, and be devoted to thee, this and all our days, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

STIR up, O Lord God, the desires of our souls to seek thy face. Cause us to fall down at thy feet, in humility, as miserable sinners, and to approach the throne of grace as needy creatures. O may our souls this night bless thee that there is a throne of grace to come unto, and a God of grace, in Christ, to call upon. Though we have sinned, blessed be God, we have an Advocate, Jesus Christ the righteous and his blood cleanseth from all sin. Holy Spirit, if thou hast taught us to know ourselves, we must see that we are concluded under sin, and our mouths are stopped. We are guilty. We have no plea, in and from ourselves, why God should hear us, accept, and bless us. Nothing but sin, dejection, and despair, arise in and from ourselves. But if we know the love of Christ, as revealed in the word of

truth, we have all reason for hope and encouragement to come unto thee, and to expect the richest blessings from thee. Glory be to thee, O Lord, there is in Christ perfect righteousness, for miserable sinners, perfect justification, for condemned sinners, perfect cleansing, for guilty sinners, perfect holiness, for unholy sinners, perfect redemption, for captive sinners, a perfectly-finished salvation, for lost and perishing sinners; yea, all perfection of blessedness for cursed sinners. Oh what amazing mercy, wonderful love, and astonishing grace is this! Lord, grant that our hearts may receive this grace in the love of it, that our souls, may love, and rejoice in thee this night for it.

O Lord, Creator, Redeemer, and Sanctifier, it is our bounden duty, our reasonable service, grant us to see it our inestimable privilege, to present ourselves before thee, pray unto thee, and give thee the praises due unto thy name. Grant us the grace of prayer in our hearts, while we use the words of prayer with our lips. Give us the spirit of praise, while we utter the words of praise. May our persons be accepted in Christ, and our services be presented upon the altar of his sacrifice, and be perfumed with his fragrant incense, that they may be acceptable in thy sight, O God. Thanks

be to thee, O Lord, for that precious word, "All things whatsoever ye ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive." Give and strengthen faith to plead thy promise before thee. O grant us so to ask, that we may receive blessings from thee; so to knock, that the door of mercy, grace, and peace may be opened to our souls; so to seek, that we may find Christ in us the hope of glory, God reconciled to us in Christ, pardoning our sins, and shedding thy love abroad in our hearts, by the Holy Ghost.

Lord, impress our minds with a sense of the exceeding sinfulness of sin, and of thy terrible judgments denounced against impenitent, unbelieving sinners. Affect our souls with thy love in giving thy beloved Son to be the Saviour of miserable sinners. O grant that we may flee from sin as from the face of a serpent, and flee to Jesus as a sure refuge from the floods of wrath, which shall be poured upon an ungodly world; and save us from the guilt and power of sin, from the curse and wrath due to sin, and at last from the very being of sin. Lord, save us in the hour of death, and in the day of judgment. O guide us through life by thy holy counsel, and after death bring us to thy eternal glory.

Father of all our mercies, we bless and

praise thee for thy care over us, and all thy goodness to us the day past. Be with us, and bless us through this night. We know not what events may await us. Before the morning light, thou mayest say to each of us, "This night thy soul is required of thee." If so, Lord, grant that we may be found in Christ, "having our loins girded about, our lights burning, and we ourselves waiting for the Lord."

Show mercy, O Lord, to this sinful nation. Stop the spread of infidelity, the growth of error, and the abounding of iniquity. O pour down a spirit of reformation upon us. Let thy gospel run and be glorified. Cause thy truth to be known upon earth, and thy saving health among all nations. May our rulers live before thee, and be ministers of God for good to us. Bless all thy people with more grace, out of thy fulness. Grant that our souls may live upon thee, rejoice in thee, and be comforted by thee. Hear us, O God, pardon, accept, and bless us, in Christ Jesus our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

O HOLY, blessed, and glorious Trinity, three persons and one God, have mercy upon us, miserable sinners. O thou Sun of righteousness, arise this morning upon us, with healing under thy beams, that our souls, wounded by sin, may experience thy health and salvation. Grant us penitent hearts, and contrite spirits. Restore us to thy favour, according to thy promises made in Christ Jesus. Grant for his sake, that we may live a godly, righteous, and sober life, all our days, to the glory of thy holy name.

Lord, pity our ignorance. Open our blind eyes. "Thy loving-kindness, O Saviour, is better than life itself:" cause our hearts to experience this. Thou hast assured us, except we are born again of the Spirit, we cannot see, we cannot enter into thy kingdom. Grant us this spiritual birth, that we may see the glory of Christ, the blessedness of his kingdom, and possess righteousness, peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost, through faith. Lord, the subjects of thy heavenly kingdom in glory were once miserable sinners on this earth, as we are now.

What has grace done for them! They

were saved by thy everlasting love, O God the Father; by thy grace, O God the Son; and by thy power O God the Holy Spirit. Lord, thy love to poor sinners is the same yesterday, to-day, and for ever. Thy power is almighty: thy mercies in Christ Jesus endure for ever. Pardon our sins, justify our persons, sanctify our souls, giving peace to our consciences, and making us meet to be partakers with the saints in light and glory. Quicken us from day to day to cry unto thee. Let our prayers arise from the convictions of our hearts that we are miserable sinners, that time is short, death is near, an awful judgment-day at hand, a never-ending eternity before us, and that there is no salvation but in the Son of God. Lord, keep us in our going out and coming in this day. Bless us in our worldly concerns. In the different stations of life wherein thou hast placed us, enable us to possess resignation, thankfulness of heart, and devotedness of soul to God. Let the word of Christ dwell in us richly, in all wisdom. Let the peace of God rule in our hearts; and grant, that whatsoever we do, in word or deed, we may do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks unto God and the Father by him.

Lord, give wisdom to the head, and grace to

the heart of the rulers thou hast set over us, that they may be a blessing to thy church and people. May all in authority over us, fear God and work righteousness. Bless all who labour in thy word and doctrine. Make them wise to win souls to Christ; give them holy zeal for thy truths, loving hearts to precious souls, and fervent affections for thy glory. Send out thy light and thy truth, to lead poor perishing sinners to thee, O Christ, for life and salvation. May thy power be known and felt in the hearts of all our relations; may they humbly bow to the sceptre of thy grace, joyfully receive salvation as thy free gift, and live to thy honour and glory. Bless all our dear friends with the blessings of thy covenant love. Pardon all our enemies, out of the riches of thy grace. Reward the kindness of our benefactors, out of thine abundant goodness. May thy word be our rule and our guide this day. May we hear the voice of thy Spirit in it, saying, "This is the way, walk therein, and ye shall find rest to your souls." O Saviour, be thou precious to us, as the way, the truth, and the life, that we may live and walk in God's favour on earth, and eternally enjoy his presence in glory, through thy sacrifice and intercession, O Lamb of God. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

O LORD God Almighty, who was, and is, and art to come, impress this solemn sentence on each of our minds, "Dust thou art, and unto dust shalt thou return." Affect our souls with a deep conviction that the end of all things is at hand, that we may be sober and watch unto prayer. Lord, teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto Christ, who, of God is made unto sinners wisdom. Grant us to know thy holy scriptures, which are able to make us wise unto salvation, through faith which is in Christ Jesus. Stir us up to search the scriptures daily, because they testify of thee, who art the only and the alone Saviour of lost sinners. Draw us, and we will run after thee. Set our souls at liberty, that we may fix our affections upon things which are above, where thou sittest at the right hand of God. Blessed Lord, be our strength. Teach our hands to war, and our fingers to fight against all our spiritual enemies, the world, the flesh, and the devil. O fix this solemn question deep in our minds, "What shall a man be profited, if he gain the whole world, and lose his own soul; or, what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" O may the care of our souls be the

chief concern of our lives. May it be our daily study, to know thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom thou hast sent; that so we may have eternal life abiding in us. May we be renewed in the spirit of our minds, and changed into the image of God. Lord renew our souls in knowledge, and our hearts in love, that our lives may be holy. Give us grace to lay aside every weight, and the sin which so easily besets us, that we may run the heavenly race, looking unto Jesus. What we know not, Lord, teach us. Teach us to know ourselves, as we are known of thee. Teach us to know that our hearts are deceitful above all things, and desperately wicked; and that out of our hearts proceed all the evils and sins of our lives. Let this lay us humble as in the dust before thee. Let this excite an earnest cry unto thee, "Lord save us, or we perish." If any before thee do not see how deplorably corrupted, how dreadfully deceitful, how desperately wicked their hearts are, and are careless about the salvation of their precious and immortal souls, O have pity upon, and show thy loving compassion to them. Lord quicken, Lord awaken them out of the dead sleep of sin, that they may now cry to thee for salvation, and not be left at last to "cry to the rocks and

mountains, Fall on us, and hide us from the face of Him who sitteth on the throne, and from the wrath of the Lamb: for the great day of his wrath is come, and who shall be able to stand?" "O Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy upon us; thou who takest away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; thou who sittest at the right hand of God, have mercy upon us." Grant us thy protection this night. May thy power defend us from the enemies of our souls and bodies; that we may rest in safety on our beds, and that by refreshing sleep our bodies may be fitted for the work and service of thee on the approaching sabbath: and as we hope to see another sabbath on earth, O may our hopes be excited, and our hearts be enlivened, with the blessed expectation of enjoying thy glorious presence in a sabbath of everlasting rest in glory. To this end, Lord, bless all the means of thy grace. May Christ be preached to our ears by thy ministers, and to our hearts by thy Spirit, to the destruction of our sins, and the salvation of our souls. Lord, prepare thy ministers for their solemn work. May they come forth to-morrow in the fulness of the blessing of the gospel of peace. While they preach Christ and his salvation to others, may they feel the love of

Christ in their souls. May thy word drop as rain, and distil as dew, upon thy people. May dead sinners feel its power, and living saints find its comfort. May weak hearts be strengthened. "To those who mourn in Zion, give beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness; that they may be trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord, that he may be glorified." Bless and keep all who are near and dear to us this night; and may they know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge. May our worst enemies find the best blessings from thee. O Lord, hear us; answer, own, and accept us, in thy beloved Son Jesus Christ; to whom, with thee, and the Holy Ghost, be everlasting glory and endless praises. Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER,

Which may be used after any of the former.

O Lord, let thy peace, which passeth all understanding, keep our hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of Thee, and of thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord; and may thy blessing, O God Almighty,—Father, Son, and Holy Ghost,—be upon us, and remain with us, now and ever. Amen.

THIRD WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

THROUGH the riches of the mercy, and by the power of thy sustaining goodness, we are brought in safety to see the light of another day, even the light of a new Lord's day, the best of days, the type of that glorious rest which remaineth for the people of God. Lord, send forth thy Holy Spirit into our hearts, and make thy sabbath a sabbath-day indeed to each of us; a day of spiritual improvement, heavenly consolation, and near communion with thee. O satisfy us with thy mercy, and that right soon; so shall we rejoice and be glad all the days of our lives. Lift up the light of thy countenance upon us at this time; bless to us all the means of grace, whether public or private, in the use of which we wait for thy salvation. O let them not be as wells without water, but make them channels of Divine influence, and effectual to the end for which thou

hast appointed them. We desire to begin the Lord's day with the Lord, and to hallow it by the word of God and by prayer. Enable us, O thou Father of mercies, to keep it holy unto thee, and to enjoy saving communion with thee, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

We thank thee, gracious God, for the return of the morning light, and for causing the day-spring to know its time and place. O may the day-star from on high visit our benighted souls; and may that Saviour, who is the bright and morning-star, arise and shine within us with healing in his wings. Glory be to thy goodness, that the light we see is the Lord's; that this is the day which thou hast made for thyself, and set apart for thy name. May this sabbath-day be a high day to our souls; a day of spiritual feasting and heavenly joy; bring us, O blessed Spirit, into thy banqueting-house, and let thy banner over us be love. Blessed be thy name, that we see so many of the days of the Son of man; that we enjoy so many precious opportunities of worshipping thee in the beauty of holiness, and of paying our vows unto thee publicly, in the presence of thy people. May we be in the Spirit on the Lord's day; and call the sabbath a delight, holy of the Lord and honourable. May we cease from our own

works, as God on the seventh day ceased from his; and abound only in the work of the Lord. Especially make it to us a sabbath of rest from sin, and a sabbath of rest in God. We are, indeed, utterly unworthy of the honour, and unable for the work of a fellowship with the Father, and with his Son Jesus Christ; but we come unto thee, O blessed Lamb of God, in thy own adorable name, who alone art worthy; and depend on the strength and supply of thy good Spirit, to work all our works in us, and to ordain peace for us. Bless all thy ministering servants throughout the whole world; may they obtain mercy of the Lord to be faithful, faithful to thee, faithful to truth, and faithful to the souls intrusted to their care. Particularly vouchsafe to be with all those who are this day to stand up in thy name, and preach the gospel of thy grace. May they be mighty through thee, to convince the unconvinced, to convert the unconverted, to heal them that are of a contrite heart, and to build up believers in their most holy faith. Enable them to preach thy truths with power, and with the Holy Ghost sent down from heaven; thou thyself graciously working with them, and confirming the work with signs following. Be in the midst of all thy worshipping people, who shall assemble in

thy name to-day. Have mercy on those who shall be unwillingly detained from thy house by sickness, or any other providential impediment; comfort them in secret, sanctify their absence by granting them much of thy inward presence. Let them that tarry at home, divide the spoil; and, as they are excluded from the stream, give them to drink the deeper at the fountain head. Lord, assist us, thy unworthy servants, in the religious services of this day. Make us joyful in thy house of prayer; when we wait upon thee for a renewal of our strength, may we find our strength indeed renewed; may we inwardly experience the grace of the means, while we attend on the means of grace; and enjoy a saving intercourse with the God of ordinances, in frequenting the ordinances of God. Vouchsafe to take us and ours into thy gracious protection. Bless and preserve us in our going out and coming in. Support and strengthen, direct and guard us; pardon our innumerable sins, and the depravity of our nature, and the offences of our lives; and sanctify us to thyself a peculiar people, zealous of good works, and seal us thine in body, soul, and spirit, to the day of the Lord Jesus. This day, gracious Lord, keep us in thy fear, let us not find our own pleasure, nor do our own

ways, nor speak our own words; but live entirely to thee, converse with thee, know more of thee, and grow up into a greater fitness for thy kingdom and glory. All we beg, O gracious Father, is for thy mercy's sake, in Jesus Christ our Saviour: for whom we bless thee, and to whom, with thyself and the Holy Ghost, we desire to ascribe all might, majesty and praise, for ever and ever.

The Lord bless us and keep us, the Lord make his face to shine upon us, and be gracious to us, and give us peace, this day and ever more. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

RECEIVE us graciously, O thou God of all mercy, though we be not cleansed according to the purification of the sanctuary; we trust we can say, that our whole dependence is fixed on that ever blessed Mediator between God and man, in whom thou hast declared thyself well pleased. Vouchsafe to clothe us with his righteousness, and to sprinkle both our hearts and our performances with his precious blood. Smile upon us, and be gracious to us, in this our private audience; may our petitions be re-

ceived with favour at the throne of grace, and may an answer of peace be sealed in our hearts. In this, and all other of our doings, may we be enabled to look unto thee for a blessing, and to receive the blessing at thy hand, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

O thou that hearest prayer, unto thee shall all flesh come. Thou art the Lord, by whom we escape death, and enjoy all things pertaining to life and godliness. Thine we are, and thee we ought to serve. Thou hast holden us up ever since we were born; may our praise be always of thee. We thank thee for thy care over us, and thy favour towards us this day, both in a way of providence and in a way of grace. Less than the least of all thy mercies, we are continually favoured with the greatest: we who deserve justly to be forsaken of thee, and to be cast out of the sight of thine eyes, are yet spared hitherto, to be monuments of thy goodness and of that love which passeth knowledge. Heavenly Father, impress our hearts with a lively and lasting sense of what thou hast done for us; and do thou crown all by working in us that which is well pleasing in thy sight. Give us unfeigned repentance toward God, and saving faith in the Lord Jesus Christ. Sprinkle us with his precious blood

from all the guilt of our sins, both original and actual; clothe us with his righteousness unto justification; and grant us that sanctification of thy Spirit, without which no man can see the Lord. We desire to be humbled in thy glorious presence for the sins of this day; for the iniquity of our holy things; for our shortcomings, and our mis-doings. Surely all our personal righteousness is as filthy rags in the eyes of thine infinite holiness; and our best performances, if brought to the test of thy law, would but add to our condemnation, and increase our punishment. But thou art a God gracious and merciful, keeping mercy for thousands, forgiving iniquity, transgression, and sin, through the ransom thou hast found, and the Lamb which thou hast provided for a burnt-offering. Give us to see that our guilt was transferred to him; that his obedience is imputed to us; and that we are, through grace, interested in all the blessings of the everlasting covenant. To the care and protection of thy almighty providence would we humbly commend ourselves this night. Take charge of us and ours, O thou Keeper of Israel, who never slumberest nor sleepest; watch over us for good. When we sleep, let our hearts wake and our souls lie open to the influence of thy blessed Spirit;

keep us without sin, by the power of thy grace. If we have received any spiritual improvement to-day, Lord grant that it may abide with us and increase with us ever more and more. Let it not be as the morning dew, that quickly passes away; but fasten thy word upon our hearts, as a nail in a sure place. Cherish every motion of thy good Spirit; begin the work of grace where it is not yet begun; and carry it on with power, where it is. May our penitence be deep and lasting; may our faith be strong, lively and fervent; and build us up into lively habitations of thee the living God. Sanctify and seal us thine, in body, soul, and spirit. Sprinkle, according to thy own most gracious promise, clean water upon us, that we may be clean; from all our filthiness, and from all our idols, do thou cleanse us; a new heart also do thou give unto us, and a new spirit do thou put within us; take, O take away the stony heart out of our flesh, and give us hearts of flesh: put thy Spirit within us, and cause us to walk in thy statutes, and to keep thy judgments and do them. May we, from principles of faith in thee, and love to thee, be careful to maintain good works; and go on from strength to strength, until we are called to appear before the Lord our God in Sion, there to celebrate

that never ending sabbath, which angels and archangels, with the spirits of just men made perfect, are now enjoying before the throne.

With them may we see thee as thou art: with them, may we cast our crowns before thee, and sing the praises of the Father who loved us, of the Son who washed us from our sins in his own blood, and of the eternal Spirit who sanctified us by his grace, and preserved us to the day of Christ. Whatever we ask, we ask it at thy hand, for the merits' sake of thy dear Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

OPEN our eyes, O Lord, that we may discern the wonders of thy law; and make us to find that it is good for us to draw nigh unto thee, and to wait upon thee, in and through the name and merits of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate.

Gracious and glorious Lord, the eyes of all wait upon thee; thou art the hope of all the ends of the earth. In thee we live and move, and have our being: thou givest us life, and breath, and all things. Still thou takest care of us and watchest over us; even in the hours

of sleep, when we are unable to care for ourselves. And thy mercies are daily renewed; thy goodness is repeated every morning: yea, every moment, dost thou give us fresh occasion of praise and thanksgiving. Blessed be thy name for the peace, rest, and safety of the night past. Enable us in the strength of thy grace and of thy gifts, to love thee truly, to serve thee faithfully, and to depend on thee without wavering. In all our ways may we acknowledge thee; and be thou graciously pleased to establish our goings, and to direct our path. We desire to put ourselves under thy gracious conduct and thy fatherly protection. We beg the heavenly guidance, blessing, and assistance of thy good Spirit, to choose our inheritance for us, and to dispose of us, and all that concerns us, to the glory of thy great name. O Lord withdraw not thy tender mercies from us, neither shut up thy loving-kindness in displeasure. Though we deserve to lose thy favour and presence, yet grant us the comfort of thy help, the joy of thy salvation. Punish not our past offences, by leaving us to ourselves, and giving us up to the dominion of our sins; but give us penitent hearts for all the evil committed by us, and thy merciful discharge from all the guilt that lies

upon us. And grant us, O Lord, the comfortable sense and apprehension of thy free acceptance of us, and of thy gracious intentions towards us, in the Son of thy love, that our hearts may bless thy holy name.—Lord keep us from sin this day. Subdue, as well as pardon our iniquities : and herein may we exercise ourselves, to have always a conscience void of offence, both towards God and towards man. Whilst upon earth, grant us a due supply of all things needful for us in the house of our pilgrimage. Sanctify to us our enjoyments and our employments, our comforts and our crosses, every condition we are to be in, and every event that shall befall us. Enable us to live to thy honour and glory ; and make us so to pass through things temporal, as neither to lose nor forget the things eternal. If thou enlighten us not, we shall run into error ; if thou prevent not, we shall relapse into sin ; if thou preserve us not, we shall fall into dangers. O let thy good providence be our defence and security ; and thy Holy Spirit be our comforter, guide, and counsellor in all our ways ; until, through the merit of thy Son, and the multitude of thy mercies, we are called away, to be for ever with the Lord. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

TEACH us, O Lord, the way of thy statutes, and make us keep it unto the end. Incline our hearts to thy testimonies, and cause us to go in the path of thy commandments, for therein is our desire. May the law of thy mouth be dearer unto us than thousands of gold and silver; and let thy Holy Spirit accompany thy word with saving power to our souls, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Infinitely great and infinitely gracious God, thy glory exceeds our utmost thoughts, and thy mercies are over all thy works. We, thy sinful creatures, have particular reason to admire and adore, not only thy patience which bears with us notwithstanding all that we have done against thee, but likewise thy never ceasing bounty, by which our comforts are continued, and our wants supplied. We desire to approach thee as our kind and merciful Father in Jesus Christ: humbly beseeching thee to wash away our sins in his most precious blood, and to give us a sufficient measure of thy grace and Holy Spirit to enable us to overcome them. Thou didst create man, O Lord, after thy own blessed image; but we have destroyed ourselves and come short of thy glory: the

crown is fallen from our heads ; we are sinners both by nature and by practice : justly mightest thou swear in thy wrath, that we shall not enter into thy rest. Yet suffer us and enable us to plead in faith, thy gracious promise, that whosoever trusteth in the Saviour and cometh unto thee by him, shall never perish, nor fall into condemnation, but have everlasting life for his sake. Lord we would believe ; O help our unbelief ! and work in us unfeigned repentance towards God, and right faith in our Lord Jesus Christ, that we may be of the number that repent and believe to the saving of the soul. Save us, O good Lord, from our sinful selves ; from love of the world, and from every thing that opposes thy grace, and tends to hurt our souls. Stablish us in thy love ; strengthen us to perform thy will ; and settle our faith on Christ, the rock of ages. To thy mercy in him we would humbly commit ourselves this night. Be our sun to enlighten us, be our shield to defend us. Grant us, rest of body, and peace of mind. Let the voice of joy, health, and safety, be heard in our dwelling : make our walls salvation, and our gates praise. Comfort all who want the comforts we enjoy ; and grant suitable supplies of mercy, both spiritual and temporal, to the afflicted, where-

soever they are, and howsoever tried. Remember, with the favour that thou bearest to thy people, all our absent friends and relations : be thou a friend to them, and may they stand in a covenant relation to thee. Make them and us such as thou wouldst have us to be, and such as thou wilt receive in Christ Jesus, here to thy gracious favour, and hereafter to thy glorious kingdom. Hear us, O God in behalf of ourselves and others ; hear others, in behalf of themselves and us ; and convert those who pray neither for others nor themselves. Above all, hear the Son of thy love, who intercedes, we trust, for us, at thy right hand. For him, and to him, with thyself, and the blessed Spirit, enable us to ascribe everlasting praise and glory. Amen.

TUESDAY MORNING.

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, worthily magnify thy holy name, and offer thee a sacri-

fice in righteousness, acceptable to thy glorious Majesty, through Jesus Christ our Lord.

Blessed Lord, thine we are, and thee we ought to serve. Thy law, and the endearments of thy love, render it our duty to rest in thy covenant, and to abound in the work of the Lord. But, we are unprofitable servants, and worse than unprofitable; for we have drank in iniquity like water, our provocations against thee are increased, and our trespasses are grown up into the heavens. We have lived to ourselves, instead of living unto Him who died for us and rose again; we have not, as we should, glorified thee in our bodies and in our spirits, which are thine. And since it is not in man to recover and save himself, O enable us to look upon thee, in whom alone our help lies. We thank thee for laying help upon One that is mighty; for committing thy people, and the work of their salvation, to the hands of him who hath finished transgression, made reconciliation for them that believe, and wrought out and brought in an everlasting righteousness for their justification. In his name we come to thy throne of grace, hoping to obtain mercy, and find grace to help in every time of need: for his sake we humbly entreat thy favour, and the light of thy countenance,

Lord, enable us to walk as become those upon whom thy name is called. May we be followers of Christ, as dear children, and adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things. O may our hearts love the Lord our God; and may thy almighty Spirit so write the law of holiness upon our minds, that it may be our meat and our drink to do thy will; that we may hate all iniquity, and every false way; and resemble the blessed Jesus as our pattern, while we trust in his merits as our propitiation. Lord, make our service acceptable to thee while we live, and our souls ready for thee when we die. As long as we are in the world, keep us from the evil of it, and from the snares and dangers to which we are continually exposed in our passage through it. O make our pilgrimage safe and sure through all the troubles, changes, and temptations of this mortal life, to the unchangeable glories of the life everlasting. Be merciful to us this day. Keep us in all our ways, bless all our lawful undertakings, and grant that we may take nothing in hand but what is warranted by thy word, and agreeable to thy will. Set thy fear before our eyes all the day long; and put thy love into our hearts, that we may not depart from thee. Bless and preserve us in our going out and

coming in. May the Angel of thy presence save us from all sin and danger. Hear and answer us, O Lord, for the sake of him who hath loved and redeemed us, even the Lord our righteousness, to whom be ascribed the kingdom, and power, and glory.

The blessing of God Almighty, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, be with us, and all that belong to us, this day, and evermore. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

O LORD, thou art good unto them that wait for thee, and to the soul that seeketh thee. We desire, at this time, to wait for thee, and to seek thee in the way of thy appointment. Give us a token for good, and an answer of peace, while we draw near unto thee in the name of Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Redeemer.

How excellent is thy mercy, O God! and what encouragement dost thou give us to put our trust under the shadow of thy wings! Thou art the bountiful giver of the good that our souls desire, and the merciful withholder of the evil that our sins deserve. From thee comes all our help; in thee make us repose all our

hope. We acknowledge thy great and daily goodness to us; and our own unworthiness of the least of all thy mercies. We desire to take shame and confusion to ourselves, that we have so little improved, and so greatly abused, thy patience with us, and the various instances of thy bounty towards us. Thy very mercies help to aggravate our offences; because we have done so much against thee, after all thou hast done, and art continually doing for us. We would, O Lord, be humbled for our sins, and entreat thy gracious favour in Jesus Christ. Forgive us for his sake all the evil of which we stand guilty before thee; and being justified by faith, grant us peace with God, through Jesus Christ our Lord. And as we pray that thou wilt be to us a Father of mercies and a God of consolation, so also that thou wouldst make us followers of thee as dear children. Work in us, by thy Holy Spirit, that which is well pleasing in thy sight. Lord, thou knowest our weakness, and the temptations to which we are exposed; our danger from the enemy of souls, and from the present world, and above all, from the enemy within our vile flesh and deceitful hearts, so apt to betray us into sin. We pray, therefore, that thou wilt arm us with the whole armour of God, and uphold

us with thy free Spirit, and watch over us for good evermore. O make us experience the aids of thy heavenly grace, that we may never fall a prey to the spiritual adversary who seeks to devour us. And seeing thou art yet pleased to hold our souls in life, and to make us find and feel by every day's experience, how gracious and merciful thou art, give us hearts more sensible of thy love to us; more devoted to thee, and more thankful for the blessings which thou art pleased to multiply upon us. Cause us to show forth thy praise, not only by speaking good of thy name but by ordering our conversation as becomes the gospel of Christ. To thy mercy in him do we humbly commend ourselves and ours this night; beseeching thee to visit us with thy salvation, and to preserve us in soul and body, from all evils and dangers to which the weakness of our frame, and the greatness of our sins, expose us. May our repose be holy, safe, and refreshing, that we may rise better fitted and enabled to serve thee according to thy will, in the duties of the following day, if it should be thy pleasure to make addition of another day to our lives. And as thou addest days and mercies, add repentance and amendment to our days; that, in proportion as we draw nearer to the

grave, our souls may grow fitter for heaven. And for all the good things that we have had, and still have, and yet hope for at thy hands, to thy adorable name be all the praise, O Father, Son, and Spirit, world without end. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

UNTO thee do we lift up our eyes, O thou that dwellest in the heavens. Have respect, we humbly beseech thee, both to us and to our offerings, for the sake of Him who offered up himself for our offences, and rose again for our justification. Meet us with a blessing, who desire to meet thee in prayer; and make thy throne a throne of grace to us, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Lord God, bountiful and gracious, long-suffering, and abundant in goodness and truth, thou keepest mercy for thousands, thou pardonest iniquity, transgression, and sin, because thou delightest in mercy. Look not upon the sin of our nature; nor the sins of our hearts and lives, which are more than we can number, and greater than we can express. O sprinkle us from an evil conscience, by the blessed Re-

deemer's blood, which cleanseth from all sin. Grant us out of his fulness, grace sufficient for us ; grace to pardon our sins, and subdue our iniquities ; to justify our persons, and to sanctify our souls. Begin and advance in us that saving change of heart, which may, by the power of thy Spirit, more and more transform us into thy blessed image, and make us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light. And now that we are entered upon another day, we beseech thee to carry us through it in thy fear and favour. Order all our steps and let no wickedness have dominion over us. Teach us to use the world without abusing it ; and may that portion of it which thou hast, and shalt assign us, be sanctified to us by the word of God, and by prayer ; and by the right employment and improvement of it to thy glory. Whatever we are as to outward circumstances, O leave us not destitute of the things that accompany salvation : but satisfy us with the sense of thy favour, and adorn us with the graces of thy Holy Spirit. Blessed be thy rich goodness, which hast renewed our lives and thy mercies to us this morning. Lord, grant that all our comforts may flow to us in the channel of covenant love ; and revert to the praise and glory of the gracious Giver. Be

with, protect, and bless us, in our going out and coming in. May the Angel of thy presence save us, and the God of angels be our shield and exceeding great reward. Make us desire, resolve, and endeavour to live in the obedience of thy holy will, and to the honour of thy blessed name. O restrain us from the evils and follies into which we are prone to fall; and quicken us to the offices and duties we ought to perform. Grant that we may think and speak, will and do, the things that are well-pleasing in thy sight; and have the strong consolation of acceptance with thee. So visit us with thy salvation, sanctify us by thy grace, and so carry us through life, that thy name may have the praise, and our souls the comfort, in the hour of death, and in the great day of our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

PREVENT us, O Lord, in all our doings, with thy most gracious favour, and further us with thy continual help; that in this, and all our works begun, continued, and ended in thee, we may glorify thy holy name; offer thee acceptable service; and finally, by thy mercy,

obtain everlasting life, through Jesus Christ our Saviour.

Enable us, gracious God, to desire thee, as our chief good; and to come to thee, as our merciful Father, in the Son of thy love. In his great name and prevailing mediation alone, it is that we, who have multiplied our offences against thee, are encouraged to present our persons and our prayers before thee. We are utterly unworthy to approach thy foot-stool, and to enjoy the privilege of intercourse with thee. We durst not appear in the presence of thy holy glorious Majesty in our own names, or trusting in our own sinful righteousness; our guilt is so great, and our iniquities so grievous, that we might justly be ashamed to come before thy face, and tremble for fear of thy judgments. We would therefore fly for refuge to the merits of Him, who, we trust, has fully satisfied thy justice for our sins, and is now interceding at thy right hand for our souls: whom thou delightest to honour, in sparing, accepting, and saving poor unworthy sinners upon his account. Deliver us, most gracious Lord, for his sake, from all those transgressions for which our hearts condemn us; and from all of which thou, who art greater than our hearts, knowest us to be guilty; and seal to us a full pardon in his

most precious blood, which speaketh better things on our behalf than we are able to do for ourselves in all our prayers. And may the time past of our lives suffice to have lived to ourselves, and to have served our own corrupt wills. O put an end to all our presumptuous and treacherous dealings with thy heavenly all-seeing Majesty ; and create in us new and humble and contrite hearts, to tremble at thy word and presence, and to hate and abandon all our foolish and sinful misdoings. Command thy blessing and thy saving grace to descend and rest upon our souls. Cause us to know the joyful sound of thy gospel, not only by the hearing of the ear, but in heavenly experience. O take possession of our hearts, and by the power of thy Spirit draw our affections to thy blessed self. Grant us union and communion with thee; such a sight and sense of sin, and of our lost estate by nature, as may render Christ and his righteousness precious to us ; and such comfortable views of our justification through him, as may enlarge our hearts with joy, fill our lips with praise, and influence us to live unto him that died for us and rose again. Lord, guide and keep us ; make us wise and faithful in our several duties, and blessed and prosperous in the event. Sanctify our respective conditions

to us, and fit us for whatever thou shalt order for us. And now, O Lord, we beseech thee to accept our evening sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving for the mercies of the day past, and for thy unwearied goodness, which has followed us all the days of our lives. Go on to abound towards us in loving kindness and tender mercies ; passing by our innumerable sins, and supplying our every want. Take charge of us to-night. Hide us in thy pavilion, and compass us about with songs of deliverance. Whether we sleep or wake, keep us safe under thy wings, and may our hearts be occupied in thy statutes. Bring us, at the appointed season, to the heavenly city, where there is no darkness, but the glory of God doth lighten it, and the Lamb is the light thereof. And for all thy patience with us, thy care over us, and thy continual mercy to us, blessed be thy name, O Lord, Father, Son and Spirit. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

THOU, O God, art praised in Sion, angels and archangels, saints below and saints above, the whole family of thy elect, both in heaven and earth, worship thee, the fountain of all

blessedness, and the giver of all good. We desire to join the company of thy redeemed, and to offer up our spiritual sacrifices. Accept, great God, the services we bring; pardon the iniquity that cleaves to our duties; meet us with a blessing; and receive us graciously, for the sake of Jesus Christ.

O thou who hast borne so long with us and done so much for us; of whom alone cometh our salvation, and by whom we escape death, moved by the sense of our own necessities; and encouraged by the daily experience of thy mercies, we desire to shelter ourselves under the shadow of thy wings, and to continue our supplications at the throne of thy grace: most humbly entreating thee, who fashionest the hearts of the sons of men, that thou wouldst prepare our hearts to come into thy sacred presence, and to call upon thy blessed name. O pour upon us the spirit of grace and of supplications; let thy good Spirit help our infirmities, and teach us how to pray. We, who are but sinful dust and ashes, have taken upon us to speak to thee, the Sovereign Majesty of heaven and earth; we who have too much cause to fear, lest our great and manifold sins might provoke thee to hide thy face from us, and to shut up thy loving kindness in displea-

sure against us. Lord be merciful to us sinners, for the sake of Him whom thou hast exalted to be a Prince and a Saviour, to give repentance unto his people and forgiveness of sins. Heal our souls, which have greatly sinned against thee; heal our backslidings, and love us freely: take away our ungodliness, and thou shalt find none. Renew us daily unto repentance: establish our hearts in thy faith and fear; and hold up our goings in thy paths, that our footsteps slip not. Make us, in the strength of grace, to go on from conquering to conquer all the enemies of our souls, and all the hindrances of our salvation, until thou hast bruised Satan under our feet.

We bless thee for the mercies of the night. We laid us down to sleep, and have risen again, for thou hast sustained us, and made us to dwell in safety. May we ever experience the comfort of thy protection, and the help of thy salvation! find thee to be indeed a God of pardon, of sanctification, and of preservation! Dispose of us, we beseech thee, and of all that concerns us, this day, to the glory of thy name. Keep us at all times, in all places, and in all companies, from sin, and from all other evils to which the greatness of our sins makes us liable. And take thou, O heavenly Father, the charge,

guidance, and government of us; lead us by thy counsel, until thou hast brought us to thy kingdom and glory; and in the mean while, sanctify to us all thy dealings with us, and seal us thine to the day of redemption, for the sake of thy tender mercies and the abundant merits of Jesus Christ our blessed Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY God, unto whom all hearts are open, all desires known, and from whom no secrets are hid, cleanse the thoughts of our hearts by the inspiration of thy Holy Spirit, that we may perfectly love thee, and worthily magnify thy holy name, through Christ our Lord.

O Lord, thou art the Searcher of our hearts and the Overseer of our lives, here and every where present. Thou compassest our path and our lying down, and art acquainted with all our ways. Lord put our hearts into a holy frame, fit to attend upon thy glorious all-seeing Majesty. Work in us, by the power of thy grace, that change which we cannot work in ourselves. We were born sinners, and by con-

tinually adding sin to sin, we have made ourselves still more the children of wrath than we were even by nature. Justly mightest thou withdraw thy tender mercies from us, and pour out thy indignation upon us; making us to feel what a bitter thing it is to depart from thee, the living God. We humbly beseech thee to stretch forth the hand of thy power and grace, to set us at liberty who are tied and bound with the chain of our sins. Cause us to abhor, and to forsake our iniquities: and, O give us a well-grounded and comfortable persuasion, of our being justified freely by thy grace through the redemption that is in Jesus. And for his sake, vouchsafe us the sanctification of thy Spirit to transform us into thine image, by the renewing of our minds, and to enable us for all the duties of thy service. Perfect, O Lord, that which concerneth us: and make us such, both in our hearts and lives, that we may enjoy thy peace below, and be meet for the inheritance of thy heavenly glory above. May we rejoice in thee as our God, and rest upon thee as our reconciled Father in Jesus Christ. And as thou hast been good and kind to us through the day past, for which, and for the mercies of all our days, we would thankfully adore thy love and bless thy name, so we beg that we may ex-

perience the continuance of thy gracious goodness to us, and of thy fatherly care over us, this present night. Preserve and defend, bless and keep us, that no evil may happen to us, nor any plague come nigh our dwelling. Favour us with such needful repose as may refresh and strengthen us for our respective duties. Prepare us, great God, for the final sleep of death, and for the account we must shortly give at the judgment seat of Christ. When our souls are required of us, and we are unclothed of the body, grant that we may not be found spiritually naked, unsprinkled with the blood of thy Son, unclothed with the robe of his justifying righteousness, nor unadorned with the graces of thy sanctifying Spirit. O cause us, to know and to follow after the things pertaining to our everlasting peace, before they are hid from our eyes, lest death should make us wise too late. Whenever thou shalt be pleased to send for us away, may we have nothing to do but to depart in peace, according to thy word, and with faith, and without dread, resign our spirits into thy gracious hands; trusting in the riches of thy grace, and the saving merits of thy blessed Son. And, for all that he has so wonderfully effected to recover us, and to obtain eternal redemption for us; for whatever good

thou hast wrought in us, and for the hope of glory thou hast given us, to thy name, O blessed God of our salvation, be the praise and honour, now and for ever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

By thy kind care, O Lord, alone it is that we laid us down, in peace and are risen in safety. May the lives, which thy goodness renews every morning, and thy providence preserves every moment, be devoted to thee, through Jesus Christ, our blessed Mediator and Redeemer.

O Lord, we desire to adore thy name, which is excellent in all the earth, and whose glory is above the heavens. Thou art the Maker and Disposer of all things: and for thy sovereign pleasure it is that they still exist, and were at first created. Thy hands have made us: and all that we enjoy comes from thee. As we are the workmanship of thy power, O make us likewise thy spiritual workmanship, created anew in Christ Jesus unto holiness and true righteousness. Give proof that thou hast formed us for thyself, by causing us to show forth thy praise; and by making us live to thy

glory, as we do every day live upon thy bounty. We are prone to forget thee, who art never unmindful of us; and to disobey thee, whose goodness to us is unwearied. For these things, O Lord, we desire to humble ourselves before thee: entreating thee, for the sake of thy dear Son, and of thy mercies in him, to work in us true repentance, and to grant us full and free forgiveness. Strengthen us, O Lord, with might by thy Spirit, in the inner man, to make us watchful against the corruptions of our hearts, the temptations of Satan, and the sinful cares and allurements of the world. O destroy in us every root of bitterness, every plant which thy grace hath not planted; exterminate every vicious habit and rebellious motion, which exalts itself against the knowledge of God, and the obedience of our Lord Jesus Christ. Increase and confirm in us more and more, thy faith, and fear, and love. Let not one grace of thy Holy Spirit be wanting, or be weak, but grant us such manifestations of thyself, and so conform us to the image of thy holiness, that our lives may be comfortable to ourselves, profitable to others, and bring glory to thy great name. May we still be found in the way of duty, fearing God and working righteousness; making it evident unto all, that

we have indeed been with Jesus; that we have learned of him; that we are influenced by his Spirit; guided by his example, and are pressing forward to his kingdom. Day by day would we magnify thee, O Lord, and worship thy name for ever, world without end, who crownest every day with thy tender mercies. We bless thee for the rest, protection, and preservation of the last night. O cause us to hear of thy loving kindness in the morning, for in thee do we trust; make us to know the way wherein we should go, for we lift up our souls unto thee. Cast us not away from thy presence; take not thy Holy Spirit from us; but direct our hearts into thy love, and our feet into the way of thy testimonies. Whether we eat or drink, or whatsoever we do, may we do all to the glory of God, and walk as seeing him that is invisible. Command thy angels to encamp around us, and to bear us in their hands; and may their God and ours be the strength of our hearts, the guide of our goings, and our portion for ever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

BLESSED are they, O Lord, who dwell in thy house, and blessed is the house where thou dwellest ; blessed is the man whose strength is in thee, and in whose heart are thy ways. May that blessedness be ours, and may the Lord, whom we seek, visit us with his presence, and rejoice us with the tokens of his love, in and through his adorable Son and our Saviour, Jesus Christ.

O Lord, we desire to seek thy face, and to wait upon thee in the duties of thy worship. To whom should we make our applications but unto thee, the Father of mercies and the fountain of all goodness, who art able to do exceeding abundantly for us, even above all that we are able to ask or think ? O let our prayer be set forth in thy sight as incense ; and be a spiritual evening sacrifice, acceptable to thee in the Son of thy love. It is in his blessed name alone, that we request of thee all that thou knowest to be needful and expedient for us, seeing that there is in us no good thing to recommend us to thy favour and acceptance ; but, a proneness to what is displeasing unto thee, and destructive to our souls. For besides that we are by nature children of

wrath, and a seed of evil doers, we have been daily adding to the heavy score of our offences against thee. There is nothing in us, O Lord, but what might provoke thee to reject us ; but there is enough in thy beloved Son, of all grace and goodness, to make the well pleased with us for his sake. For his sake blot out our manifold transgressions, apply the benefits of thy salvation to our consciences, that we may be enabled to walk, O Lord, in the light of thy countenance ; hasten thy coming and kingdom, that we with all thy redeemed may join in ascribing songs of praise to God the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. To the care and protection of thy almighty providence would we humbly commend ourselves this night. Take charge of us and ours, O thou Keeper of Israel, who never slumbers nor sleeps, and watch over us for good. Gracious Lord, shower down thy blessings upon us, the unworthy family now before thee ; let the voice of joy and health be heard in this dwelling : let thy peace be within these walls, and the plenteousness of thy salvation within these gates. Make this a house of prayer, and every soul within it a living temple of thee the living God, through Jesus Christ, our only Mediator and Advocate. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

BLESSED Lord, who hast caused all holy scriptures to be written for our learning, grant that we may in such wise hear them, read, mark, learn, and inwardly digest them, that by patience and comfort of thy holy word, we may embrace and ever hold fast the blessed hope of everlasting life, which thou hast given us in our Saviour Jesus Christ.

Unto thee, O God, do we give thanks : yea unto thee will we give thanks, because thy name also is so nigh, and that thy wondrous works do declare. We beseech thee, gracious God, to hear us mercifully at this time, pardon our manifold sinfulness and supply our manifold wants. Write the law of thankfulness upon our hearts for the experience we have already had of thy goodness, and kindly continue to be nigh unto us, in all that we call upon thee for. Wash away the sins of the last night, and those of this day hitherto ; who can tell how oft we offend ? none but thou that knowest all things. O cleanse thou us from our secret faults, and from our original depravity, the source of all ; may we be justified fully, freely, and finally, by thy grace, through the redemption that is in Jesus, and sanctified

by the renewing efficacy of thy blessed Spirit. Bless us in this our private waiting upon thee for we are gathered together in thy name, at the footstool of thy grace: Lord Jesus, be in the midst of us, and give unto us a comfortable view of our interest in thy precious merits. Let thy righteousness, blood-shedding, and intercession sanctify every sacrifice of prayer and praise which we offer up. Thou makest both the persons and performances of thy people acceptable to the Father; mingle our addresses with the incense of thy intercession, and then they will go up as a memorial before God. O thou risen and ascended Saviour, may our hearts and affections tend upwards to thy throne in heaven, that by faith in thy adorable person and infinite merits, in the exercise of continual obedience and deadness to the world, we may safely hope to be with thee, where thou art, there to behold thy glory. O thou uncreated Majesty, we acknowledge that all the blessings of a spiritual and temporal nature that we have received from our existence to this day, are of thy free and unmerited goodness. Were the distributions of thy favours to be regulated by our deservings, they would soon be withdrawn. Therefore not unto us, O Lord, but unto thy name be the praise and

the glory ascribed. Hear us, O God of our salvation, and do more for us than we are able to ask or think, for the sake of thy Son, our Redeemer; to whom with thee and the Holy Ghost, three persons in one Godhead, be ascribed all glory and adoration, by the church above and the church below, for ever and ever. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

ALMIGHTY and everlasting God, who art always more ready to hear than we to pray, and art wont to give more than either we desire or deserve, pour down upon us the abundance of thy mercy, forgiving us those things whereof our consciences are afraid, and giving us those good things which we are not worthy to ask, much less to receive, but through the merits and mediation of Jesus Christ, our Lord; in whom we desire to be found, and in his name do we now approach the throne of thy grace, and make mention of his righteousness only, as the ground of our justification in the sight of our heavenly Father; to whom, with the blessed Spirit, be ascribed all honour and dominion, world without end.

Wherewith shall we come before thee, O Lord; or bow ourselves in thy presence, O thou most high God? Cause us to come in faith; mentioning no other name, no other righteousness, no other atonement, than the name, righteousness, and atonement of thy blessed Son, our adorable Mediator, Jesus Christ. In him we desire to be found; through him we hope for favour with thee, and acceptance in thy sight. Blessed be thy goodness for the mercies of the day, the blessings of thy providence, the comforts of thy Spirit, and the privileges we enjoy. We thank thee that we have been protected from danger, and above all if we have been withheld by grace from sinning against thee. Lord, make us thankful for the desire which thou hast given us of living unto thee; and O make our desires effectual through the mighty working of thy Spirit. Lord, wash out the transgressions of this day, and of this week. And shouldest thou deal with us after our sins, or reward us according to our deserts, or if thou wast to enter into judgment with us, upon the footing of our best performances, alas! we could not stand in thy presence, nor be justified in thy sight. Our prayers, our praises, and all we are and do, brought to the test of thy perfect law, would be found not only

deplorably deficient, but altogether lighter than vanity itself. Yet, though we are vile, thou art gracious. We bless thee for that rich provision of grace and glory which thou hast made for thy penitent people, in the righteousness, sacrifice, and intercession of him who is their Advocate with the Father, and the propitiation for their sins. O certify us by thy blessed Spirit, that we are loved by thee with an everlasting love, and interested in the sure mercies of David. Continue thy goodness towards us to-night. Make us rest under thy defence, O thou Most High, and abide under the shadow of the Almighty. Thy mercies to us have been great and unmerited. Perfect, O Lord, that which concerneth us, and forsake not the work of thine own hands. Bless us with thy presence, thy grace, and thy protection. Suffer not the enemy to have any advantage over us; neither let the son of wickedness approach to hurt us.

Be with all thine every where. Visit those, in particular, with thy salvation whom we desire to bear upon our hearts before thee. May those, who are dear and near to us, be near and dear to God: and whatever separation thy good providence may make upon earth, O grant that we and they may meet with joy at thy

right hand in the hour of death and in the day of judgment. Bless the nation of which we are a sinful part. Maintain the cause of thy truth, and enlarge the kingdom of thy Son amongst us. Remember for good thy faithful people of every denomination: more especially regard with thy choicest favour, and defend with thy mighty power, the church to which we belong. Bless thy servant our President. Direct the counsels of our country to the advancement of thy glory, the good of thy church, and the safety, honour, and welfare of thy people. May all orders and degrees of men be fearers of God, lovers of truth, and workers of righteousness; strengthen and relieve those who labour under any affliction in mind, body, or estate; and make all work together for their good. Preserved by thy gracious mercy, we are coming near to the end of another week. Many of our fellow-creatures since the commencement thereof have left this scene, and have entered upon an eternal state. O God most holy, O God most mighty, grant, that before our eyes close in death, we may be enabled to embrace the Lord's Christ in the arms of our faith. Carry us holy, peaceably, and safely, through the ensuing sabbath. Lift up the light of thy countenances upon us, and may

our comforts be neither few nor small. In all the duties that are before us may we look to the Spirit of grace for willingness and power to serve thee faithfully, and may our entire dependence be upon the merits of Jesus Christ the righteous, to render our defective services such as thou wilt mercifully accept. Be thou to-morrow present in the assemblies of thy saints. May such as seek thee be joyful and glad in thee ; and may they find, by happy experience, that one day in thy courts is better than a thousand elsewhere, and that thy house is indeed the house of God, and the gate of heaven. Be with all the faithful stewards of thy mysteries in every place, who shall administer in thy name. Enable them rightly to divide the word of truth. Pardon the unworthiness of ministers and people, and vouchsafe to own thy glorious gospel, by making it effectual to the salvation of them that hear ; every spiritual and temporal mercy we request, for the alone sake of Jesus Christ the righteous. Amen.

FOURTH WEEK.

SUNDAY MORNING.

CHIEFLY FROM ISAIAH.

O THOU, who, as on this day, didst burst the bands of death, and rise triumphant from the grave; thou who livest, and art alive for evermore,* assist us, a family of sinful creatures, that we may approach acceptably the throne of grace, and pour out upon us, we beseech thee, the spirit of prayer. We thank thee for the repose of the night and the light and blessings of the morning.†

May this holy day, set apart, and sanctified by thee,‡ be a sabbath of blessing throughout the world, and especially to us now gathered together before thee, to all connected with us by the bonds of nature or affection, and to this country in general.

O Lord God! we confess that we are indeed a sinful nation, a seed of evil doers; we pro-

* Rev. i. 18.

† Zech. xii. 10.

‡ Gen. ii. 3.

voke thee, the holy One of Israel, to anger. From the sole of the foot, even unto the head, there is no soundness in us; the whole head is sick, the whole heart faint. Yet, O Lord, be not extreme to mark what we have done amiss; hear, we entreat thee, the prayers that shall this day be offered by thy faithful people; and O! that many may this day be turned from the power of Satan unto God,* and brought, humbled and penitent, to the foot of the cross.

Merciful God! we plead thy precious word of encouragement, that though our sins be as scarlet, they shall be as white as snow; though they be red like crimson, they shall be as wool. O then, soften, we pray thee, our hard and guilty hearts. Let us no longer refuse and rebel, but be willing and obedient to follow the path that leadeth unto eternal life. Wash us, and make us clean in that fountain opened for sin and for uncleanness.† May we put away the evil of our doings from before thee. May we cease to do evil and learn to do well. May the loftiness of man be bowed down, and the haughtiness of men be made low, and the Lord alone be exalted on this day.

O let thy threatened judgments awaken sinners to repentance. May we, and all men on

* Acts xxvi. 18.

† Zech. xiii. 1.

this day, humble ourselves in the dust before thee, remembering, with sorrow and with penitence, our innumerable transgressions, and for Christ's sake may our iniquity be taken away. Preserve us from that fear of man which bringeth a snare,* and may we sanctify the Lord God in our hearts.† May he alone be our fear, our sanctuary, and our strong defence.‡

O God! great and glorious are the blessings thou hast promised in the latter days of thy church. Suffer us to plead the fulfilment of these precious promises. O when shall it be that the mountain of the Lord's house shall be established on the top of the mountains, and be exalted above the hills, and that all nations shall flow unto it? When shall it be that the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord, as the waters cover the sea?

Many run to and fro in the earth,§ with the glad tidings|| of salvation. O strengthen their hands,¶ and comfort their hearts.** Let thy Spirit rest upon them, and by them may know-

* Prov. xxix. 25.

† 1 Pet. iii. 15.

‡ Psa. xciv. 22. Prov. xviii. 10, "strong tower."

§ Dan. xii. 4.

¶ Neh. vi. 9.

|| Luke i. 19.

** 2 Thess. ii. 17.

ledge be increased, and many be added daily to the church of such as shall be saved.*

Merciful Father, may we rise from our knees, refreshed,† and strengthened,‡ for the duties of this day. Thou hast commanded us to keep it holy.|| O enable us to call and feel the sabbath a delight, the holy of the Lord, honourable. May we honour thee, not doing our own ways, nor finding our own pleasure, nor speaking our own words. May we delight ourselves in the Lord, and do thou feed us with the heritage of thy people. Hear, O Lord, we beseech thee, and in great mercy accept and answer these our supplications for the sake of our adorable Redeemer. Amen.

SUNDAY EVENING.

CHIEFLY FROM ISAIAH.

O LORD God of the sabbath!§ suffer us again to gather ourselves together before thee, and to close this sacred day with prayer and praise; and let thy Holy Spirit be with us for Christ's sake.

* Acts ii. 47. † Acts iii. 19. ‡ Psa. xxvii. 14.

|| Exod. xxxi. 13—17. Matt. v. 17. Mark ii. 27, 28.

§ Exod. xx. 10. Luke vi. 5.

Another blessed opportunity thou hast vouchsafed to us, wherein to attend to the things which belong unto our peace.* O that we had improved it as we ought! that we had loved thee more, and served thee better; that our praises had been more heartfelt, our confessions more humble, our prayers more fervent. Yet, O Lord, sinful as we are in our best services, reject us not; nor suffer us to retire to rest without thy pardon and thy blessing. Accept, we pray thee, our imperfect endeavours to keep this day holy: let the precious blood of our Saviour wash away all our defilements, and for his sake look upon us as a reconciled Father in Christ Jesus.†

We pray also for all christian congregations, and for all who, in the church, the family, or the closet, have this day endeavoured to seek thee in thine own appointed way.

O God, though thou mayest justly be angry with us, miserable sinners, yet for Christ's sake let thine anger be turned away from us, and comfort us, we pray thee, with heavenly comfort. Enable us with joy to draw water out of the wells of salvation, to trust in thee, and not be afraid. O thou holy One of Israel, our strength, our song, our salvation! we would

* Luke xix. 42.

† 2 Cor. v. 18, 19.

praise thee, we would exalt thy name; for thou hast done wonderful things in the earth, thy counsels of old are faithfulness and truth. Thou art a strength to the poor, a strength to the needy in his distress, a refuge from the storm, a shadow from the heat. O may our minds be more and more stayed on thee. O Lord our God, henceforward let the chief desire of our souls be to thy name, and to the remembrance of thee; yea, with our souls may we desire thee in the night; with our spirits may we seek thee early.

O God, give thy blessing, we earnestly beseech thee, to the means that have been used this day, for the spreading of the gospel both at home and abroad. We would plead for thine ancient people Israel. Hast thou not promised to give them rest from their sorrow, and from their fear, and from their hard bondage wherein thou hast made them to serve? O that they may take hold of thy strength, and make peace with thee! We would plead also, O God, thy further promise, that thou wilt destroy the face of the covering cast over all people, and the vail that is spread over all nations. Hasten, O Lord, that glorious day, that the deaf may hear the words of the book, and the eyes of the blind may see out of

obscurity and out of darkness; that the meek may increase their joy in the Lord, they that erred in spirit come to understanding, and they that murmured learn doctrine. O hasten that glorious day in which it shall be said, Lo! this is our God, we have waited for him, and he will save us; this is the Lord, we have waited for him, we will be glad, and rejoice in his salvation.

O Lord! be gracious unto us at the voice of our cry; protect us from all injury this night: bring us to the morning in peace: hear us, and answer us, we earnestly beseech thee, for the sake of thy dear Son, Jesus Christ, the Saviour of mankind. Amen.

MONDAY MORNING.

CHIEFLY FROM THE GOSPEL OF ST. MATTHEW.

O HEAVENLY Father! who in wonderful love to mankind didst send thine only Son into the world, to be unto us both a sacrifice for sin,* and also an ensample of godly life, fill our hearts with gratitude and love to thee. We desire to praise thee for thy preservation of us through the past night, for thy daily mercies,

* Heb. ix. 26. x. 12. Eph. v. 2.

for thy long-suffering towards us, and particularly for the inestimable gift of the holy scriptures. O may we, with earnest prayer, make them our constant study.* May the pure doctrines and heavenly precepts that proceeded from the lips of our adorable Redeemer, sink deep into our hearts, convince us of our utter unworthiness, and bring us, in prostration of soul, to the foot of the cross.

Lord! of ourselves we perish!† we cannot stand before thee because of our trespasses.‡ Every day, every hour, every moment of our lives, we are transgressing the holy purity of thy law. Yet for the sake of Him who was bruised for our iniquities, and by whose stripes we are healed,|| look not upon us in anger, neither chasten us in thy displeasure § Look upon us in the Son of thy love. Look upon us in him whom thou hast called Jesus, because he should save his people from their sins. Enable us truly to believe in him, as thy beloved Son, in whom thou art well pleased, and through faith, may we bring forth fruits meet for repentance.

O heavenly Father! who hast promised to

* 2 Tim. iii. 14—17.

† John iii. 15.

‡ Ezra, ix. 15.

|| Isa. liii. 5.

§ Psal. xxxviii. 1.

give good things to those who ask thee, pour upon us the spirit of fervent, humble, persevering prayer. Teach us thyself to pray. May we so ask, that it may be given unto us; so seek, that we may find; so knock, that it may be opened unto us.

O Lord! our hearts by nature are proud, uncharitable, carnal, unholy. Make us, we pray thee, meek and lowly as our blessed Saviour. May we mourn for sin, that we may be comforted by thee. May we hunger and thirst after righteousness, that we may be filled. May we be merciful, that we may obtain mercy. May we be pure in heart, that we may see God. May we be peacemakers amongst our brethren, forgiving, as we would be forgiven. If there be any that hate us, may we do good to them; if any that despitefully use us, or persecute us, may we pray for them, that we may be the children of our Father which is in heaven. Suffer us not to retain any thing in our hearts which is offensive to thee; but should it be dear to us as a right eye, let us pluck it out, and cast it from us. May our light so shine before men that they may see our good works, and glorify our Father which is in heaven. But let us not be eager for the applause of men. May we remember that no man can serve two

masters; that the world and heaven cannot together hold possession of our hearts, and since we are strangers and pilgrims on the earth,* may we earnestly seek to have our treasure and our hearts in heaven.

O God, who knowest that of ourselves we can do nothing, pour out abundantly thy Holy Spirit upon us, that we may both perceive and know what things we ought to do, and also may have grace and power faithfully to perform the same, through Jesus Christ, in whom alone we hope for acceptance both now, and in eternity. Amen.

MONDAY EVENING.

CHIEFLY FROM ST. PAUL'S EPISTLES TO THE CORINTHIANS.

LORD, teach us to pray !† May we approach thee acceptably with reverence and godly fear,‡ and worship thee in spirit and in truth,§ through Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Give unto us we beseech thee, the light of thy Holy Spirit, that we may be enabled to re-

* Heb. xi. 13.

† Luke, xi. 1.

‡ Heb. xii. 28.

§ John, iv. 23.

ceive Christ Jesus into our hearts, as our wisdom, and righteousness, and sanctification, and redemption. O may thy love be shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Ghost; and may we cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God. Give unto us that godly sorrow for sin which worketh repentance to salvation not to be repented of. May we be washed, and sanctified, and justified, in the name of the Lord Jesus, and by the Spirit of our God. Fill us with a holy dread of offending thee. We are bought with a price; the precious blood of the eternal Son of God: therefore may we seek to glorify God, in our body and in our spirit which are God's. May we be temperate in all things, keeping under the body, and bringing it into subjection, lest the enemy of souls shall prevail against us.

O God of faithfulness; who knowest the devices with which Satan is continually endeavouring to ruin us, let us not, we pray thee, be tried above that we are able; but with every temptation, make us a way to escape, that we may be able to bear it.

We beseech thee to fill our hearts with true and fervent charity, with love to God and man;

that charity, which suffereth long and is kind, that charity which never faileth.

Pour down upon us the abundance of thy Spirit. May it be mighty through God within us, casting down every high thing that exalteth itself against the knowledge of God, and bringing into captivity every thought to the obedience of Christ.

O God, who didst command the light to shine out of darkness, shine, we beseech thee, into our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. And since we have the treasures of thy grace in earthen vessels, that the excellency of the power may be of God, and not of us, Lord, increase our faith!* And should we, through the weakness of our flesh, the malice of Satan or mankind, be troubled on every side, yet let us not be distressed; though perplexed, let us not be in despair; though persecuted, let us not fear we are forsaken; though cast down, let us yet be thankful we are not destroyed for our iniquities. May the afflictions which thou seest good to send to us for the trial of our faith† and patience,‡ work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory. Though

* Luke xvii. 5.

† 1 Pet. i. 7.

‡ James v. 7—11.

our outward man perish, yet may our inward man be renewed day by day, and finally, when our earthly house of this tabernacle is dissolved may we have a building of God, a house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens.

Blessed be God, even the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies, and the God of all comfort; blessed be his holy name for the mercies of the day past, and of our lives past; and above all, blessed be his holy name for the gift of his dear Son. O that we might feel the love of Christ constraining us, that henceforth we might live not unto ourselves, but unto him who died for us and rose again.

Lord, we commend ourselves and all our fellow-creatures unto thee this night in body and in soul. May we rest in peace under the shadow of thy wings;* and hear, we earnestly beseech thee, these our prayers, and accept our praises, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our blessed Mediator and Redeemer. Amen.

* Psa. xxxvi. 7.

TUESDAY MORNING.

CHIEFLY FROM ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God! who has graciously encouraged thy weak and sinful creatures to call upon thee,* enable us to approach the throne of grace in faith, and with deep humility and reverence. May we draw near to thee in singleness† and simplicity‡ of heart, trusting alone in our Saviour for acceptance, and let thy Holy Spirit be with us to teach and help us to pray.

Thanks be to thee, O God, who hast raised us in safety from our beds, and permitted us again to meet together in thy name. Thanks be to thee who hast in some measure opened our eyes to the blessed truths of the gospel. Thanks be to thee for the glorious hope laid up in heaven for every true believer. O may we be delivered from the power of darkness and be translated into the kingdom of thy dear Son, and in him may we have redemption through his blood, even the forgiveness of sins. We earnestly desire, O God, that we may be filled with the knowledge of thy will, in all wisdom, and spiritual understanding, that we

* Psa. i. 15.

† Acts ii. 46.

‡ 2 Cor. xi. 3.

may walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of thee our God. May we be strengthened with all might according to thy glorious power, unto all patience and long suffering with joyfulness. Make us meet to be partakers of the inheritance of the saints in light: and since it has pleased thee that in Christ Jesus all fulness should dwell, may we ever have an eye directed unto him in faith, looking unto thee through him alone, for every good thing of which we stand in need for time and for eternity.

Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! God of patience and of consolation!* remember with thy love all who have ever asked our prayers or prayed for us. Comfort our hearts. May they be knit together in love, and unto all riches of the full assurance of understanding, to the acknowledgment of the mystery of God, and of the Father and of Christ. O thou, in whom are hid all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, reveal to us the truth. Enable us to receive Christ Jesus, as our Lord and Saviour, and may we walk in him, rooted and built up in him. Stablish us in the faith, and

* Rom. xv. 5, 6.

may we abound therein with thanksgiving. May we seek those things that are above, where Christ sitteth on the right hand of God. May we set our affections on things above not on the things of the earth, and may we hence forward be dead unto sin, and our life hid with Christ in God. Give us grace to mortify our members which are upon the earth; and putting off anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, and uncleanness, may we put on, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, long-suffering, forbearing one another, and forgiving one another. Above all things, may we put on charity, the bond of perfectness. Let the peace of God rule in our hearts, and the word of Christ dwell in us richly in all wisdom; and whatsoever we do in word or deed, may we do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God, and the Father, by him. May all who profess to be christians faithfully discharge the duties of their various stations. Finally, may we all continue in prayer, and watch in the same with thanksgiving, and may grace be with us through Jesus Christ. Amen.

TUESDAY EVENING.

CHIEFLY FROM DEUTERONOMY AND ISAIAH.

ALMIGHTY God! we desire with humble reverence to cast ourselves at the foot of thy mercy-seat, and with earnestness to implore pardon and blessing from thee, before we lie down to rest.

O Lord, the rock of our salvation, thou art our Father, who hast made us, and preserved us to this hour.

But, alas! we are a foolish people, and unwise, and have ill requited thy patience and long suffering towards us. We deserve to be cast off from thee for ever; but, O Father of heaven, remember thy blessed promise to thy people, that although they have done evil in thy sight to provoke thee to anger, yet if they shall seek thee again with all their heart, and with all their soul, they shall find thee, and that thou wilt be to them a merciful God, and wilt not destroy them. O forgive our sins and our iniquities, and let them no longer separate between us and our God. Give us a heart to fear thee, and to keep thy commandments always, that it may be well with us, and that thou mayest establish thy covenant with us, as thou didst with thy people of old. Let us no

longer forget the Lord who formed us; but may we humble ourselves* and repent;† and do thou, O most merciful God, henceforth lead us and instruct us, and keep us as the apple of thine eye.

Have pity, we beseech thee, upon all those whom a deceived heart hath turned aside. O bring the blind by a way they know not, make darkness light before them, and crooked things straight. Behold with compassion the sins and miseries of a fallen world. Hast thou not promised to pour out thy Spirit from on high, till the wilderness shall become a fruitful field to pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground? Hast thou not promised that when the enemy shall come in like a flood, the Spirit of the Lord shall lift up a standard against him?

O Lord, our eyes are fixed upon thee, our hope and our deliverer! we wait‡ for thee, we plead thy gracious promises.

Pour out in these last days thy Spirit upon all flesh,§ and look with favour upon every society established for the spreading of the truth around the world. We would unfeign-

* 2 Chron. vii. 14. xxxiv. 27. Matt. xviii. 4. xxiii. 12.

† 1 Kings, viii. 46—50,

‡ Micah, vii. 7.

§ Joel, ii. 28.

edly thank thee for any success that may have hitherto attended them, and we beseech thee that we may be “thereby encouraged to persevere in more zealous labours, and more fervent prayers.” Bless and strengthen all thy faithful people in all parts of the world, particularly the ministers of the gospel, and all who are gone into foreign lands to teach the unenlightened the way of peace. May the Spirit of the Lord rest upon them, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and might, the spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord. In all their labours, their discouragements, and their trials, be thou nigh to uphold and strengthen them. Be thou to them as a hiding place from the wind, and a covert from the tempest; as rivers of waters in a dry place, as the shadow of a great rock in a weary land. May all hearts be opened to receive the doctrines of thy holy word; may thy blessed Spirit be with all who hear and read it, that it may drop into their hearts as the rain, and distil as the dew, as the small rain upon the tender herb, and as the showers upon the grass, that, as the earth bringeth forth her bud, and the garden causeth the things sown in it to spring forth, so the Lord God may cause righteousness and praise to spring forth before all nations.

Hear, O Almighty Father, these our unworthy supplications and prayers for the sake of our dear and only Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

WEDNESDAY MORNING.

CHIEFLY FROM ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE ROMANS.

BLESSED and all-glorious God! to whom we have access by faith in the Lord Jesus Christ, we know not what to pray for as we ought, but give us we beseech thee, according to thy word, thy Spirit to help our infirmities, and to make intercession* for us.

We desire, O God, to begin this day with a thankful acknowledgment of thy fatherly care over us through the night that is past, and for the many and undeserved blessings thou from day to day bestowest upon us. They are new every morning, great is thy faithfulness.† O may we be justified by faith, and have peace with God, through our Lord Jesus Christ, and rejoice in hope of the glory of God. But, O heavenly Father! we are miserable sinners! Be merciful, unto us! Let grace purchased

* Rom. viii. 26.

† Lam. iii. 23.

for us by the blood of Christ,* abound towards us, in the forgiveness of all our sins. We know that the wages of sin is death, and yet how frequently have we yielded our members servants to iniquity unto iniquity. We know that the commandment is holy, and just, and good ; but, alas ! we find within us, that when we would do good, evil is present with us.

O Saviour, Lord God Almighty ! deliver us from the body of this death. Graft us into thyself. Take from us that carnal mind which is death, and give us that spiritual mind which is life and peace. Yea, may the Spirit of Christ dwell within us.

O God ! our enemies are lively and they are strong.† We are surrounded with temptations and trials from within and from without. But be thou for us. Thou, who in thy wondrous love has not spared thine own Son, but hast delivered him up for us all, wilt thou not with him freely give us all things ? Thou, who although thou hatest iniquity, yet justifiest the penitent believer, let us be of the number of thine elect and who shall lay any thing to our charge ? Thou our Saviour, yea, the Saviour of all who believe,‡ who didst die, who art

* Acts, xx. 28. † Psal. xxxviii. 19. ‡ 1 Tim. iv. 10.

risen again, who art at the right hand of God, to make intercession for us; hear the humble prayers of those who, although as dust and ashes before thee, have taken upon them to speak unto thee.* Hear us, not for ourselves alone, but for our relations, our friends, our acquaintances, our country and all our fellow-creatures. Plead thou for us, Lord, and we shall not be condemned. O gather us under thy wings,† let us for ever abide in thee,‡ and let nothing separate us from thy love.

May we henceforward present our bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable, unto God, which is our reasonable service. Let us no longer be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of our mind, that we may prove what is that good, and acceptable, and perfect, will of God. May we abhor that which is evil, cleave to that which is good; be kindly affectioned one to another with brotherly love, giving with simplicity, showing mercy with cheerfulness, not slothful in business, but fervent in spirit, serving the Lord, rejoicing in hope, patient in tribulation, continuing instant in prayer. May we rejoice with them that do rejoice, and weep with them that weep.

* Gen. xviii. 27.

† Matt. xxiii. 37.

‡ John, xv. 4.

If it be possible, as much as in us lies, may we live peaceably with all men, and not be overcome of evil, but overcome evil with good.

O God of peace, according to thy blessed promise, bruise Satan under our feet shortly; and if it pleaseth thee, fill us with all joy and peace in believing, that we may abound in hope through the power of the Holy Ghost; and may the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with us all. Amen.

WEDNESDAY EVENING.

CHIEFLY FROM ST. LUKE'S GOSPEL.

BLESSED be thou, O Lord God, who hast visited and redeemed thy people; who hast sent thy holy word amongst us to give knowledge of salvation, to give light to them that sit in darkness and in the shadow of death, to guide our feet into the way of peace.

O God, our merciful Father! open our hearts to receive with gratitude the precious truths of the gospel. May we know ourselves to be wretched, and miserable, and poor, and blind, and naked,* and flee unto Him who has promised to cast out none that come unto him.†

* Rev. iii. 17.

† John, vi. 37.

O grant, that we being delivered out of the hands of our spiritual enemies, may serve thee, our God, without fear, in holiness and righteousness all the days of our life. May our hearts be as the good ground, on which the precious seed was sown. May we hear the word, and keep it, and bring forth fruit with patience.

Lord! we are unworthy to take thy name within our polluted lips,* but if thou wilt, thou canst make us clean. O have compassion upon us, put forth thine hand, and say, "I will, be thou clean;" then shall the leprosy of our sin depart from us. We are often distressed, perplexed, and wretched, from inward temptations, and outward trials, so that our hearts are like a vessel tossed upon a troubled sea. But, O merciful Saviour! rebuke the raging winds and waves, then there shall be a calm. In all the sorrows, and the sufferings of this troubled life, say unto us, "Be of good cheer, it is I, be not afraid;"† then shall our souls find strength and peace.

Give us grace to choose the one thing needful, that good part which shall not be taken away from us; may we remember that this

* Isa. vi. 5.

† Matt. xiv. 27.

world is not our rest;* teach us to deny ourselves, to take up our cross daily, and to follow our blessed Master bearing in mind his admonition, that no man having put his hand to the plough, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God.

O merciful Father, who hast promised to give thy Holy Spirit to them that ask it, give it abundantly to us, we earnestly beseech thee, for of ourselves we cannot please thee. Give us grace to confess Christ before men. We know not, but that this night our souls may be required of us. O be merciful to us, sinners! and pardon all our offences, for Christ's sake: and may our loins be girded about, and our lights burning: and may we be ready, for we know not at what hour the Son of man may come.

Have mercy, we implore thee, on all our fellow-creatures; especially upon those who hitherto have been regardless of thee and eternity. All things are possible with thee.† Speak the word,‡ and they shall awake§ from the death of sin, unto a life of righteousness. Open their eyes, and they shall know thee;

* Micah, ii. 10.

† Matt. xix. 26.

‡ Matt. viii. 8.

§ Eph. v. 14.

break their stubborn hearts,* and they shall mourn.† O that this night, there might be joy in the presence of the angels of God over many a repentant sinner. O that this night, many and many might be gathered under thy wings of mercy, compassionate Redeemer!

To thee, all-merciful and all-mighty Father, we commend ourselves, and all mankind; and very particularly those who have ever asked our prayers. Preserve us in body and in soul; and after this life is ended, may an entrance be ministered unto us abundantly, into thine everlasting kingdom,‡ through Jesus Christ, our Mediator and Intercessor. Amen.

THURSDAY MORNING.

CHIEFLY FROM THE FIRST EPISTLE OF ST. PETER.

O BLESSED and glorious God, Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who, according to thine abundant mercy, has begotten us unto a lively hope by the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, to an inheritance incorruptible and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, keep us by thy mighty power through faith unto salvation. Enable us to rejoice in our Saviour.

* Psa. xxxiv. 18. li. 17. cxlvii. 3.

† Zech. xii. 10. Matt. v. 4.

‡ 2 Pet. i. 11.

Though we have not seen him, yet may we love him ; and believing in him, may we rejoice with joy unspeakable and full of glory. Or, if in this world of tribulation we are, if need be, for a season in heaviness, through manifold temptations, O let the trial of our faith, being much more precious than of gold that perisheth, though it be tried with fire, be found unto praise, and honour, and glory, at the appearing of Jesus Christ. May we gird up the loins of our mind, be sober, and hope to the end, for the grace that is to be brought unto us at the revelation of Jesus Christ. As He who has called us is holy, so may we be holy in all manner of conversation. May we purify our souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit ; and may we be born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever.

O Lord, give us a meek and quiet spirit, which is in thy sight of great price : and above all things, give us charity. Make us to love our neighbour with a pure heart fervently ; and more earnestly to desire and pray for the welfare of our fellow-creatures.

O that all men might come unto that Living Stone, disallowed indeed of men, but chosen of God, and precious. O Lord ! open the eyes

of all that are in error; lead them in faith and repentance to Christ Jesus; call them out of darkness into thy marvellous light. Let those who as yet have not obtained mercy, now obtain mercy; and let all who are now as sheep going astray, be brought unto the Shepherd and Bishop of their souls: and, O Lord, grant that all who profess to follow thee, who art a God of peace,* may be of one mind, having compassion one of another. May we love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous; not rendering evil for evil, but contrariwise blessing. May we sanctify the Lord God in our hearts, and be ready always to give an answer to every man that asketh us a reason of the hope that is in us, with meekness and fear, having a good conscience; that whereas, others speak evil of us, as of evil-doers, they may be ashamed that falsely accuse our good conversation in Christ. Remembering the end of all things is at hand, may we be sober, and watch unto prayer. When it shall please thee to send trials, and afflictions, let us not think it strange, as though some strange thing had happened unto us; but rejoice, inasmuch as we are partakers of Christ's sufferings, and believe that when his

* Rom. xv. 33. 2 Cor. xiii. 11. 1 Thess. v. 23. Heb. xiii. 20.

glory shall be revealed we shall be glad also with exceeding joy. May we be clothed with humility, remembering that God resisteth the proud, but giveth grace to the humble. May we humble ourselves under thy mighty hand, casting all our care upon thee, and believing that thou carest for us. O enable us steadfastly, to resist our adversary, the devil, knowing that the same afflictions are accomplished in our brethren that are in the world. And, O thou, who art the God of all grace, after that we, have suffered awhile, make us, we beseech thee, perfect; establish, strengthen, settle us: and may peace be with us all, through Jesus Christ. Amen.

THURSDAY EVENING.

CHIEFLY FROM ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE HEBREWS.

O GOD! who at sundry times, and in divers manners, didst speak in time past to thine ancient people by the prophets, and hast in later days spoken unto us by thy Son, who is the brightness of thy glory, and the express image of thy person, enable us to give earnest heed to the things revealed unto us, lest at any time we should let them slip.

Preserve us all, we beseech thee, from an evil heart of unbelief, in departing from the living God; and let none of us be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. We are weak and helpless, but thou art everlasting strength. O Lord! enable us, with humble boldness, to draw near to the throne of grace, in the name of Jesus, our great High Priest, who ever liveth to make intercession for us: and may we, for his sake, obtain mercy and pardon, and grace to help in time of need. May we flee for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us; and enable us to hold the beginning of our confidence, stedfast unto the end.

Let us not be slothful, but followers of them who through faith and patience inherit the promises. Pour upon us an abundant measure of thy grace and Holy Spirit; and may the blood of Christ, who offered himself without spot to God, purge our consciences from dead works, to serve the living God.

O that it might please thee to give unto us a full assurance of faith! Though we can only view thy promises afar off, yet, like the saints of old, may we be persuaded of them, and embrace them; and confessing ourselves to be strangers and pilgrims upon earth, may we fix

our hopes upon that better country, where a rest remaineth for the people of God.

Knowing He is faithful who promised, may we consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works, not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is, but exhorting one another, and so much the more as we see the day approaching. Let us not be of the number of them who draw back unto perdition, but of them who believe to the saving of the soul.

Give us grace to lay aside every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and to run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the Author and Finisher of our faith. May we follow peace with all men, and holiness, and may we have grace to serve thee acceptably, with reverence and godly fear.

We pray thee, almighty Father, to preserve, pardon, and bless all our dear friends and relations, and mercifully to supply the wants, both spiritual and temporal, of all our fellow-creatures. Especially we would commend to thee, the afflicted in mind, body, or estate. O let them not be wearied and faint in their minds. Let them not despise the chastening of the Lord, nor faint when they are rebuked of him,

but remember with comfort, that whom the Lord loveth he chasteneth, and scourgeth every son whom he receiveth. May their chastening be for their profit, and make them thereby more and more partakers of thy holiness; and though for the present it seemeth not joyous, but grievous, yet let it yield in them the peaceable fruits of righteousness.

O thou! who hast promised never to leave nor forsake* those who follow thee, we beseech thee to make us perfect in every good work, to do thy will, working in us that which is well pleasing in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, to whom with the Father, and the Holy Ghost, be glory for ever and ever. Amen.

FRIDAY MORNING.

CHIEFLY FROM THE GOSPELS OF ST. MATTHEW AND
ST. LUKE.

O! BLESSED Saviour of mankind! who hast promised that where two or three are gathered together in thy name, there thou wilt be in the midst of them; and that if two of thy disciples shall agree on earth, as touching any thing they shall ask, it shall be done for them, by

*Deut. xxxi. 8.

our Father which is in heaven: fulfil, we earnestly beseech thee, thy gracious promises towards us, a family of sinful creatures, assembled together in thy name; and assist us to ask such things, and in such a manner as shall please thee, and reach the throne of mercy through thy precious intercession.

O God! as thou hast in mercy raised us up from our beds, so may we arise to newness* and holiness of life. As the light of day has chased away the shades of night, so let the light of thy truth beam upon our hearts, darkened with the corruptions of a sinful nature. May we constantly bear in mind all that thy dear Son has done and suffered for us. When we read in thy holy word, of his life of patience and humility, of his devotedness to the service of God and man, of his agony and bloody sweat, of the cruel mocking and scourging to which he was exposed, of his lingering and painful death upon the cross, and, above all, of the anguish of his soul, when sinking under the wrath of God, voluntarily incurred for man's sake,† O make us deeply to feel the evil of sin, and the exceeding love of God; and may we earnestly endeavour, through thy grace assisting us, to follow the blessed precepts contained in

*Rom. vi. 4.

†Mark, xiv. xv. John, xix

the holy scriptures. O that, wearied and heavy laden with the burden of our sins, we and all dear to us, might come unto thee, merciful Saviour, for rest. May we take thy yoke upon us, and learn of thee, who art meek and lowly in heart, that we may find rest unto our souls. May we humble ourselves, and become as little children. May we have grace from our hearts to forgive every one his brother their trespasses; yea, to forgive, not only until seven times, but until seventy times seven; remembering how often we have sinned against thee. Help us to watch and pray that we enter not into temptation; and because of the weakness of our flesh, let thy Holy Spirit, we pray thee, be ever ready to help our infirmities. O Lord! may we earnestly seek to know, and to do thy will. Let us not be ruled by man's judgment, but by thy holy and revealed will. O thou who camest into the world to seek and to save that which was lost, have mercy upon all who as yet are wanderers from thy fold; and upon all who, professing themselves to be christians, dwelling in a christian land, and having the word preached amongst them, yet live regardless of its holy doctrines and precepts. We pray, Lord! that their eyes may

be opened ! that they might receive their sight, and follow thee, the Lord their God.

Thou hast commanded that the gospel should be preached to every creature,* and thou hast promised to be with us always, even unto the end of the world. O let thy richest blessing rest upon all, who either at home or among heathen nations, are labouring in the cause of the truth. Intercede for them, blessed Saviour and for all who seek thee, that their faith fail not, but that they may in patience possess their souls unto the end. These mercies we humbly ask for the sake of thy Son, our Lord and Saviour. Amen.

FRIDAY EVENING.

CHIEFLY FROM ST. PAUL'S EPISTLE TO THE EPHE-
SIANS.

O FATHER we bow our knees unto thee, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant unto us, we beseech thee, wisdom and knowledge in him. May the eyes of our understanding be enlightened, that we may know what is the hope of his calling, and what the riches of the glory of his inheritance in the saints, and

*Mark, xvi. 15.

what is the exceeding greatness of his power to usward who believe.

O grant unto us, according to the riches of thy glory, to be strengthened with might by thy Spirit in the inner man, that Christ may dwell in our hearts by faith, that we being rooted and grounded in love, may be able to comprehend with all saints, what is the breadth and length, and depth, and height, and to know the love of Christ, which passeth knowledge, that we may be filled with all the fulness of God. Enable us to walk worthy of the vocation wherewith we are called, with all lowliness and meekness, with long-suffering, forbearing one another in love, endeavouring to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace.

O thou! who hast ascended up on high, leading captivity captive, and hast received* gifts for men, pour abundantly upon us thy Holy Spirit, that we henceforth be no more children, tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine; but speaking the truth in love, may grow up unto thee in all things. Suffer us not to be alienated from the life of God, through the ignorance and blindness of our hearts, but may we know and follow the

* Psa. lxxviii. 18.

truth as it is in Jesus. May we put off the former conversation, and be renewed in righteousness and true holiness. May we speak every one truth with his neighbour; let us not suffer the sun to go down upon our wrath, remembering the precept, Be ye angry, and sin not. Let no corrupt communication proceed out of our mouth; but that which is good to edify, that it may minister grace unto the hearers; and let us not grieve the Holy Spirit of God. Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and evil speaking, be put away from us, with all malice; and may we be kind one to another, tender-hearted, forgiving one another, even as we hope God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven us.

May we be strong in the Lord, and in the power of his might, putting on the whole armour of God, that we may be able to stand against the wiles of the devil, against flesh and blood, against principalities, and powers, against the rulers of the darkness of this world, and against spiritual wickedness in high places. O may our loins be girt about with truth, may we have on the breast-plate of righteousness, and our feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace. Above all, may we take the shield of faith, to quench all the fiery darts of

the wicked: also the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God, praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; especially for the ministers of God's word, that utterance may be given unto them that they may open their mouth boldly to make known the mystery of the gospel.

O Lord our God! for all the mercies of the day past, give us, we pray thee, thankful hearts. Pardon whatever thy holy eyes have seen amiss in us, and be pleased to watch over us through the silent hours of the night, and may grace and peace be with us, and all our dear friends and relations, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

SATURDAY MORNING.

CHIEFLY FROM THE THIRD TO THE TWENTY-SIXTH
PSALM.

O LORD our God! how excellent is thy name in all the earth, who hast set thy glory above the heavens! We would praise thee, O God, with our whole heart: we would declare all thy marvellous works; we would be glad and

joice in thee; we would sing praise to thy name, O thou Most High. We laid us down and slept; we awaked, for thou, Lord didst sustain us. We will trust in thy mercy, for thou hast dealt bountifully with us. O God! prepare our hearts to pray unto thee, and from thy holy temple above, look down upon us, and hear our cry. Unto thee do we lift up our souls; let not the enemies of our salvation triumph over us. Show us thy ways, O Lord; teach us thy paths; lead us in thy truth and teach us, for thou art the God of our salvation, on thee may we wait all the day. Remember, O Lord! thy tender mercies and thy loving kindnesses, for they have been ever of old. Remember not the sins of our youth, nor our transgressions; according to thy mercy remember thou us, for thy goodness' sake, O Lord! Bless us, we beseech thee, this day and for ever, and with thy favour encompass us as with a shield. Show us the path of life, and enable us to set thee always before us.

O Lord, we are weak, and unable of ourselves to stand,* but be thou our deliverer, our strong defence, and let thy strength be made perfect in our weakness.†

* Ephes. vi. 11—13.

† 2 Cor. xii 9.

O Lord ! who can tell how oft he offendeth !
O cleanse thou us from our secret faults. Keep
back thy servants also from presumptuous sins.
Help us to meditate daily in thy law, and to
delight ourselves in thy statutes. May we
have grace to obey thy commandment, and to
receive the blessing from the Lord, and righteousness from the God of our salvation.

O Lord ! be thou our shepherd, and we shall
not want. Make us to lie down in green pastures,
lead us beside the still waters of comfort.
Restore our souls, when through weakness they
have wandered from the right way, and lead us
in the paths of righteousness for thy name's
sake. Let goodness and mercy follow us all
the days of our life, and when we walk through
the valley of the shadow of death, be thou with
us, and let thy rod and thy staff comfort us.

O God ! to-morrow is the rest of thy holy
sabbath ;* prepare our hearts, we beseech thee,
for the observance of it ; and teach us so to
regulate our worldly business, that it may not
interfere with the duties of thy sacred day.
Let thy Spirit rest upon all the ministers of the
gospel in their preparation for their holy labours,
and may all christians take hold of thy

* Exod. xvi. 23.

covenant, and keep the sabbath from polluting it.*

Hear, O Lord ! our prayer, which goeth not out of feigned lips, and let the words of our mouth, and the meditation of our heart, be acceptable in thy sight, through Jesus Christ, our Strength, and our Redeemer. Amen.

SATURDAY EVENING.

CHIEFLY FROM THE GOSPEL OF ST. JOHN.

ALMIGHTY God ! who didst so love the world, that thou gavest thine only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life, we beseech thee to enable us with faith to receive Christ Jesus as our only Saviour, that he may give us power to become the sons of God. May we be born again of the Spirit, and let it not be said of us, that light is come into the world, and that we loved darkness rather than light, because our deeds were evil. May we worship thee in spirit and in truth, and do thou give unto us of that living water which shall be in us a well of water springing up into

* Isa. lvi. 6.

everlasting life. May we diligently search the scriptures with fervent prayer, for eternal life. O that all men might receive grace to come unto Christ, that they might have life. Thou, O Saviour! art the bread which came down from heaven, to give life unto the world. O that we, and all the children of men, might have our eyes opened to see thee, and our hearts opened to receive thee. May we feed on thee in our hearts by faith with thanksgiving, that so thou mayest, on the last day, raise us up unto everlasting life. May we follow thee, the Light of the world, that we walk not in darkness, and may we continue in thy word, that we may know the truth, and that the truth may make us free.

O thou good Shepherd! who hast given thy life for the sheep, receive us into thy flock; may we dwell safely under thy protection, and go in and out, and find pasture. O suffer us not to perish, neither let any one pluck us out of thy hand; but let us be of that blessed number, to whom thou hast said, "Fear not, little flock, it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."*

O may we so love one another, that all men

* Luke, xii. 32.

may know that we are thy disciples. Thou art the Way, the Truth, and the Life ; no man cometh unto the Father but by thee. Enable us to follow thee, to believe in thee, to abide in thee, that we may bring forth much fruit, for without thee we can do nothing. Send unto us, we beseech thee, the Holy Ghost the Comforter, the Spirit of Truth, that he may guide us into all truth, that he may teach us all things, and bring all things to our remembrance, whatsoever thou hast said unto us. Intercede for us, that we may be one with thee and the Father, that we may be kept from the evil of the world, that we may be sanctified through thy word, which is truth, and that after this life, we may be with thee where thou art, and behold thy glory. And while we are yet pilgrims through this vale of tears, let not our hearts be troubled, neither let them be afraid. May we be soothed in all of our sufferings and trials by that peace which thou givest, not as the world giveth ; and though in the world we may have tribulation, yet may we be of good cheer knowing that thou hast overcome the world, and that thou art gone up on high to prepare a place for us, and wilt come again, and receive us unto thyself, that where thou art, there we may be also. Take

us and ours, under thy gracious care this night and bring us in safety to the morning for the sake of thy dear Son, our only Saviour. Amen.

A PASTOR'S PRAYER.

ALMIGHTY and most merciful God, who I humbly trust hast called me thy unworthy servant, to the ministry of the gospel, enable me to draw near the throne of grace and to receive that promised strength, which thou art ever ready to bestow upon thy people, and which I so much need in the arduous, yet blessed labours of the sacred office.

O my God, I adore that grace, which has wrought so wonderful a change in my heart, as to cause me to love that holy calling, I once abhorred, and to take delight in those duties I once despised. May the humility and fervour, the purity and zeal of my efforts to serve thee, bear increasing evidence both of the presence of thy Holy Spirit with me, and of my sincere desire to redeem the time, that has been lost. May the same good spirit make me truly sensible of the honour and danger of so great a trust, as that of the mysteries of the

kingdom of thy dear Son, and of the account I am to render to thee.

O let me never forget, no matter where I am or in what I may be engaged, whether in my family or in society: in my study or in the house of God, that the vows of God are upon me, as one "separated to the gospel of Jesus Christ."

O Holy Spirit sanctify my heart, that no base or impure thought, no mean or covetous affections may lodge there.

Govern my tongue, that no corrupt communications, or sinful language may proceed out of my mouth: guard my eyes that they wander not after the forbidden objects of time and sense: Purify my hands and may they daily acquire more and more skill in the work of the Lord, grasping with joyful energy the gospel plough and faithfully serving him whose palms were nailed to the cross. Guide my feet, in paths of peace, of holiness and usefulness, and suffer me not, professing to be a guide to others, to go astray myself. Let me never follow the inclinations of corrupted nature, nor govern myself according to the maxims of an evil world. Order my whole life, that by the powerful influence of a good example as well as by my teaching, I may lead the people com-

mitted to my care in the ways of truth and eternal life: And O my God forbid that any irregularity in my conversation may ever render my instructions ineffectual or the ways of religion to be lightly esteemed. Clothe thy servant, O God, with true humility: imbue his spirit with gospel meekness: render him patient under injuries; calm, in the midst of the exciting provocations of the world, and uncomplaining when neglected by those from whom better things might have been expected. Enable him to bear it in faithful memory, that the disciple is not above his master, and that the weapons of his warfare, against all who oppose him, are prayer, kindness, love and persuasion.

And O, thou who art infinite in wisdom, and hast promised to compassionate and strengthen thy ministering servants, saying "lo I am with you always even to the end of the world," grant me a clear perception of the meaning of thy revealed will as contained in the sacred scriptures; and also ability to proclaim the whole counsel of God, to the hearts and consciences of the people of my charge. Give thy servant skill rightly to distribute thy word, and to convey it to the capacities and understandings of his flock.

To this end, O God, anoint my soul with the Holy Ghost, and may my teaching and preaching, be such as may accord with the dignity and simplicity of sacred truth. Save me from pride and vanity : from prejudice and self-love : from all vain show of human learning or affectation of human art : and grant that the glory of God, in the salvation of souls through Christ Jesus, may be my constant motive in every sermon.

O merciful God, from whom alone cometh the increase, grant thy blessing upon my ministrations, both pulpit and pastoral : that they be effectual to the conviction of the careless and impenitent, to the awakening of the secure, to the comfort of the desponding, that anxious souls may be led to Christ Jesus, and sincere believers strengthened in faith and love and animated with zeal and fidelity in their master's cause.

Assist me by thy good Spirit and with wisdom from on high, that I may apply a proper cure for all the spiritual maladies of thy flock ; that I may reprove with prudence and with mildness and like thee, my blessed master "bind up the broken-hearted and comfort those that mourn."

Bless, O my God, the various institutions of

pious benevolence in the Church committed to my care, and open the hearts and the hands of thy people to supply those means which are necessary to carry these good designs unto full effect.

Especially would I commend to thy divine care, the teachers in our Sunday school, with the children of their charge ; may the teachers be taught of God, and may the children be trained in the nurture and admonition of the Lord. Add to their number, Oh my God, until there be not one child of ignorance, and crime in the length and breadth of our land, or one individual capable of teaching, reluctant to engage in these labours of love.

Jesus, Lord, look with mercy upon our youth preparing for the gospel ministry ; sanctify their persons, their studies, their motives, and having prepared them for their responsible duties, send them forth and many more with them, and my dear children among the number, as labourers unto the harvest field, for the harvest is great, whilst the labourers are few.

Nor would I limit these my imperfect prayers, Oh my Father, to my own pastoral charge, but present them for thy whole church. Clothe thy ministering servants with salvation,

and honour them as instruments of turning multitudes to the Lord Jesus.

And O, merciful God, who showest to them that are in error, the light of thy truth to the end that they may return unto the way of righteousness, grant unto all those who are admitted into the fellowship of Christ's religion, that they may avoid those things that are contrary to their profession and follow all such things as are agreeable to the same, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Remember, O Lord, the missionaries of the cross, comfort them in their voluntary exile from the home of their youth, and the privileges of their native land: and may they enjoy the unspeakable satisfaction of gathering unto thy fold, Christ's own sheep now scattered throughout this sinful world.

Look with an eye of tender compassion upon thine ancient people, Israel; remove the vail from their hearts and cause them to know thy truth and acknowledge their own Messiah; gather them once more to thy bosom, and bring in also, the fulness of the Gentiles; let there be one fold and one Shepherd.

Hear me, O my God, in these my feeble and imperfect prayers, and do far more and better for my people and my own soul, than I

am able to ask or worthy to receive; for all I do ask is in the name and through the merits of thy Son Jesus Christ, my Lord. Amen.

QUESTIONS FOR SELF-EXAMINATION.

1. Do I see and feel that I am a sinner in the sight of God?

2. Do I discover the proneness of my heart to evil; that it is sinful, and must be renewed by the Holy Ghost?

3. Do I acknowledge my guilt and ingratitude before God?

4. Am I convinced of my own weakness: that if left to myself I never could save my soul, atone for my past sins or avoid new transgressions in future?

5. Am I grieved at the hardness and insensibility of my heart, and anxious to be taught by God's Word and Spirit, all that I should know and feel?

6. Do I, by faith receive and cordially rely upon the Lord Jesus, as the Saviour, who obeyed God's law and on the Cross suffered in my stead: and do I trust in the merits of his obedience and of his sufferings, as the only and

all-sufficient ground of my pardon and acceptance with God? And am I desirous, publicly, to confess Christ?

7. Am I sure, that, as a sinner, conscious of guilt and helplessness, I am not trusting in the merits of my prayers or vows, or in any change in my feelings, but solely and entirely in Jesus, to save me from sin, that worst of all evils.

8. Do I realize the necessity of the Holy Spirit's aid, not only to convince me of sin, but also to sustain me in every Christian duty?

9. Am I conscious of any change in my feelings towards the people of God? Do I find satisfaction in their society? 1 John, iii. 14.

10. Is Christ Jesus precious to me? 1 Peter, ii. 7.

11. Do I love the Saviour, and only mourn that I love Him so little? John, xxi. 16.

12. Do I practice private prayer, and daily read God's Word?

13. Do I think it will be consistent in me, as a professor of the name of Christ, to frequent the places of fashionable amusement of worldly people: such as theatres, balls, &c.?

14. Should I be ensnared by the world, the wickedness of my heart, or the great adversary, what do I think ought to be my own opinion of my spiritual state; and what do I

230 QUESTIONS FOR SELF-EXAMINATION.

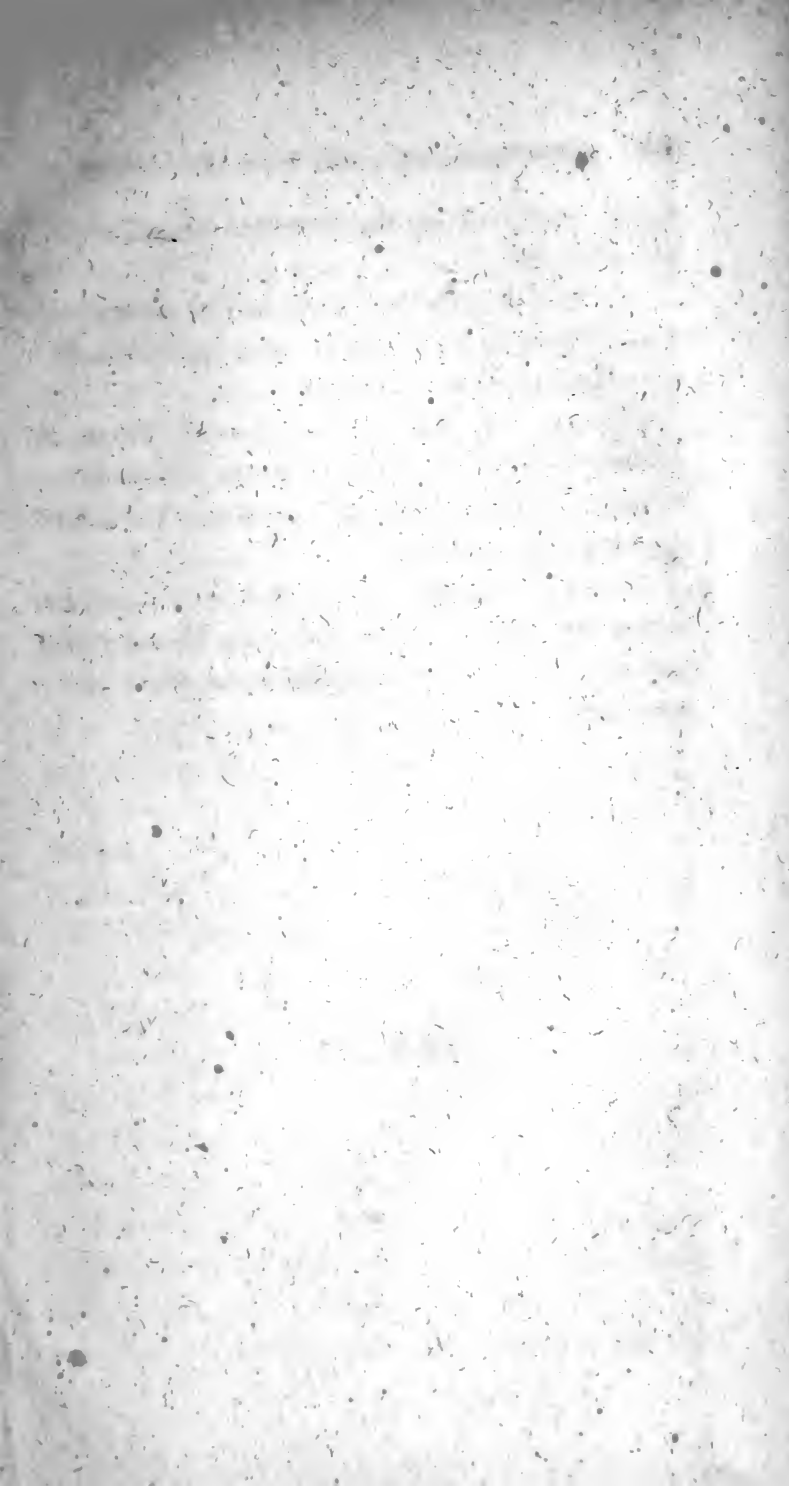
think ought to be the conduct of my Pastor towards me?

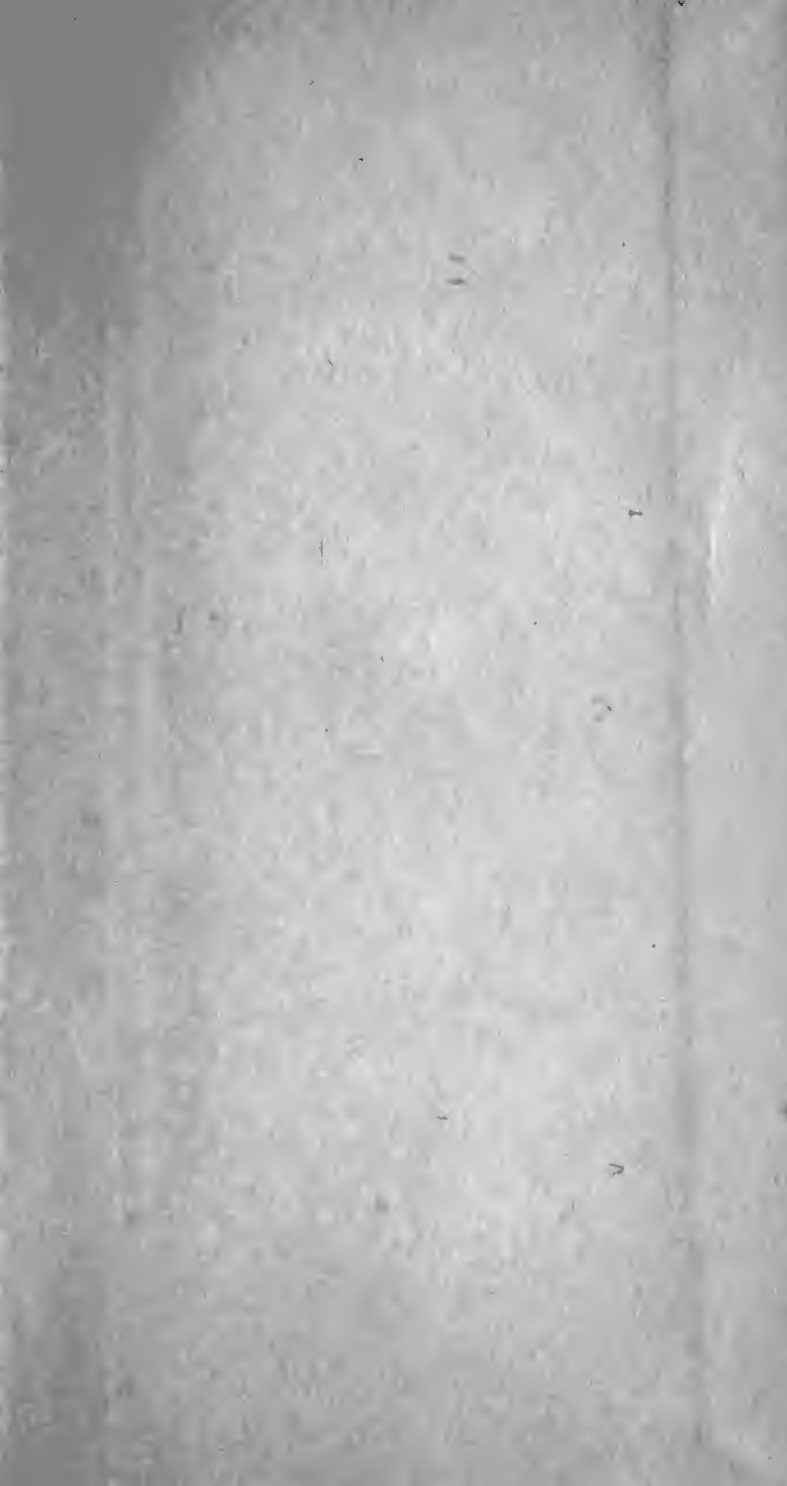
15. Is it my solemn determination, in reliance upon the help of God, to live for Christ and my soul's eternal salvation.

16. Am I willing to comply with the usages of this church, of which I desire to become a member, and to adorn the doctrine of Christ, by an humble and holy life?

17. Have I prayed over these questions, and answered them in the sincerity of my heart, before God? "Be not deceived, God is not mocked."

THE END.







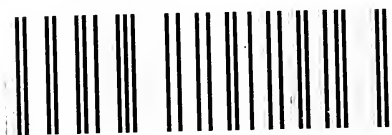
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